

THE TIMES Tomorrow

On the shelf Why did Alfred Hitchcock hide five of his most famous films from public view? Spectrum investigates.



Off the peg Men's Fashion looks at the changing style of suits. At the table The full list of cricket fixtures for 1984. On the doorstep John Barry with a message for Moscow as cruise missiles come to Europe. In the frame Computer Horizons offers another opportunity for pupils to win a computer for their school.

EEC acts to enforce steel prices

Stringent controls on minimum EEC steel prices will be introduced next month in an effort to prevent illegal overproduction which, according to the European Commission, threatens the industry with collapse. The measures include a system of deposits returned to produce only if the Commission is satisfied the steel has been sold in line with EEC policy.

Reagan in DMZ

Massive security surrounded President Reagan's visit to the Korean Demilitarized Zone, the first US leader to do so.

Miners' ballot

The National Coal Board, to the anger of Mr Arthur Scargill, the union leader, is preparing to ballot miners by post on ending their countrywide overtime ban.

Navy accused

Allegations that the Royal Navy has concealed the true cost of some projects will come under close scrutiny when ministers return to their desks today.

Andropov calm

Moscow remains unfurrowed over the Andropov health rumours, officials indeed hinting that the Soviet leader may reappear in public shortly.

Irish challenge

Sinn Féin is to contest the European Parliament election for the first time next year and if successful will take its seats.

Ring of protest

The Polish people have been given special telephone numbers to call to protest against food price rises, announced at the weekend, which come into force on January 1.

Grenadians held

The United States Army is holding 140 Grenadians for interrogation at Point Salines detention centre, using 10ft by 10ft wooden crates as isolation cells.

McEnroe wins

John McEnroe won the Benson and Hedges singles championships at Wimbledon beating Jimmy Connors 7-5, 6-1, 6-4 in the final. It is the fifth time McEnroe has won the championship in the last six years.

Leader page 11 Letters Anglo-Irish Summit, from Professor C. O'Leary; the Dover Committee by Professor H. Lloyd-Jones; role of the Speaker by Robin Maxwell-Hyslop, MP. Leading articles: Argentina; Mosley. Features, pages 6, 7, 10. The case for cutting taxes; why TV will stay out of balance; Robin Cook, MP, on true blues who could be won by Labour; Anne Sofer's list; Spectrum: Voices from the Land of Israel; Modern Times: the style of Stephen Bayley. Obituary, page 12. Mr Tom Heron, Mr Edgar Graham.

Home News 2.3 Law Report 20
Overseas 4.5 Parliament 12
Arts 12 Press Bonds 24
Sports 12 Religion 12
Business 13-16 Science 17-19
Court 12 TV & Radio 23
Crossword 24 Theatres, etc 23
Diary 24 Weather 24
Events 24

Battle looms over privatization of gas and electricity

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

The Government is embarking on a wide-ranging review of privatization plans for the next five years which looks certain to lead to a clash between the Treasury and the Department of Energy over the future of the gas and electricity industries. Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy, is expected to come under strong pressure from Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, to introduce greater competition into the industries, possibly including such radical options as breaking up British Gas and allowing private industry to sell gas direct to consumers. The issue is likely to come to a head at a series of meetings between the Treasury and departments responsible for the nationalized industries which is planned for the next few weeks as part of an exercise to map out the Government's privatization programme for the rest of this Parliament. Ministers at Transport, Energy and Trade and Industry are among those being asked to put forward options for how they propose to introduce competition and private capital into the industries they cannot. This exercise partly reflects the continuing central role of privatization in the Government's economic strategy, which was underlined two weeks ago in a speech by Mr John Moore, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, who is responsible for coordinating the privatization programme. Whereas the Government raised less than £2,000m from denationalization and asset sales in its first four years, Treasury ministers believe that it could be possible to realize at least £10,000m from privatization in the next five years - particularly if the profitable gas and electricity industries are included. But the exercise also reflects a determination to switch the emphasis away from simple change of ownership to genuine improvements in competition and efficiency. While the Government is pressing ahead with its plan to float British Telecom on the

Stock Exchange in October, it is sensitive to charges of having merely substituted a private monopoly for a public one, while doing little to promote competition in the industry.

One privatization scheme - a management buyout at the National Bus Company - has already been rejected. The future of the gas and electricity industries will cause the most heated debate as they pose similar issues of regulation and competition to those raised by the British Telecom flotation.

Sir Denis Rooke, chairman of British Gas, has fiercely resisted moves to break up the corporation. This view - while it is thought to have won the support of Mr Walker - will be challenged by the Treasury. In his speech two weeks ago, Mr Moore said that while the transmission and distribution of gas and electricity could be regarded as natural monopolies, electricity generation and the marketing and production of gas were not.

Dispute cuts BBC viewing time

By David Hewson

BBC closed down nearly an hour early last night at 11.50 pm because of the outside broadcast technicians' dispute, which could spread to other parts of the network later this week.

Officials and members of the Association of Broadcasting Staffs met over the weekend to discuss the corporation's threat to dismiss technicians who refuse to give an undertaking to work normally by Thursday. Mr Paddy Leach, the union's assistant general secretary, said yesterday that consultations with union members in the regions were likely to continue until close to the expiry of the BBC deadline. The union is testing the level of support it is likely to receive among its 15,000 BBC members unaffected by the dispute if the dismissals go ahead. It began in September over the demand by the ABC for late night payments for outside broadcast technicians returning home for assignments, and has increasingly disrupted BBC schedules. More than 400 technicians are suspended without pay. A small number of outside broadcast technicians are still working, but the corporation faces serious disruption of its services this week. If there is no early settlement of the issue, the BBC will be looking anxiously to see if support for the technicians spreads.

The latest audience ratings show that the BBC is losing heavily to ITV. Average viewing of BBC 1 was down 5 per cent on the previous year for the week ending October 23. Both BBC channels could only manage a 45 per cent share of viewing time, 35 per cent of it on BBC 1, against ITV's 50 per cent and Channel 4's 5 per cent.

Miners may back Benn nomination

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Mr Tony Wedgwood Benn, the most important figure in the Labour Party outside Parliament, said yesterday that he would be ready, if selected, to contest the by-election at Chesterfield when Mr Eric Varley retires.

He said: "I have a constituency. But he added that the decision on the Labour candidature would be made by the local party without outside pressure. Mr Benn was responding, in an interview on the BBC radio programme *The World This Week*, to favourable comments about him by Mr Peter Heathfield, leader of the Derbyshire miners. Mr Heathfield, who said he would support Mr Benn's candidature, described him as a friend of Derbyshire miners, who had spoken at their schools and addressed their conference.

He thought the spotlight would be on Chesterfield, with the pundits talking about Mr Neil Kinnock's ascendancy over the party, and "it could be a heavyweight by-election". These points had to be born in mind when choosing a candidate. Mr Heathfield also compared Mr Benn favourably with Mr Varley, whom he succeeded in

1975 as Secretary for Energy. Mr Benn was "generally recognized within the union as the best Secretary of State for Energy we have had to deal with".

But other members of the Chesterfield party said yesterday that Mr Benn was likely to be opposed by strong local candidates.

The Derbyshire miners are not the force they were when Mr Varley, the son of a miner, was first elected for Chesterfield in 1964. In 1962 there were about 28,000 Derbyshire miners; now there are only about 11,500.

It is some years since the miners had control of the Chesterfield Labour Party and Mr Benn will need support from engineering and white collar unions and party branches. The Derbyshire miners' area executive is to meet on Wednesday to decide whether it wants to nominate a miner.

The executive committee of the Chesterfield constituency party will meet on Friday to discuss preparations for selecting a candidate. They are working in the belief that Mr Varley will resign his seat before Christmas and the by-election will be held before Easter.

Mr Varley served in the Cabinet throughout the Parliament of 1974 to 1979. He announced on Friday that he intended to leave the Commons at an early date to become executive deputy chairman of Coalite. His majority at the general election in June was 7,763 over the Conservatives, with the Liberal/Alliance candidate third.

Mr Benn was MP for Bristol South-East for 33 years but at the general election was beaten by the Conservatives for the new seat of Bristol East.



Mr Benn: "I have a contribution to make."

Assad delays Gemayel visit

Beirut (Reuters) - A visit to Damascus, scheduled for today by President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon, was postponed last night due to a sudden illness suffered by President Hafez al-Assad of Syria, Lebanese officials announced. Beirut radio said Mr Assad would require hospital treatment but did not identify his illness. The officials said Mr Abdel-Haleem Khaddam, the Syrian Foreign Minister, would visit Beirut on Thursday to prepare for a Damascus visit by Mr Gemayel when President Assad recovers. Syria smiles: With unaccustomed courtesy, Damascus radio had been referring to "His Excellency" President Gemayel while preparations were still being made for today's planned visit. (Robert Fisk writes from Beirut). Mr Gemayel was going to Damascus with a promise to form a Lebanese government of national unity and an offer to ignore the unofficial peace treaty between Lebanon and Israel, provided Mr Assad gave his word that he would order the Syrian army to withdraw from Lebanon as soon as the Israelis had left. The meeting which was to have marked the official end to the state of near-hostility between the Syrian and Lebanese governments, was also likely to embrace the future of Yasser Arafat, who was hinting this weekend that he might leave the encircled Lebanese city of Tripoli and travel to Amman to reconnoitre talks with King Hussein of Jordan on the future of the Israeli-occupied West Bank. In Damascus yesterday neither the Government-controlled press nor the state radio chose to comment on the American decision to cut off aid to Syria, largely, one supposes, because the Syrian Government had never told its people that it was receiving such aid. At the Baddawi camp to the south of Tripoli, Mr Arafat's guerrillas are still in their front-line positions although some 11,000 Palestinian civilians have fled the camp: about 3,000 are still there, many living in underground shelters. (Rinafeld mission, page 4)

Anglais Nouveau makes it a two-way wine race

By David Hewson

With Britain on the verge of another Beaujolais race, a new competitor has entered the cross-Channel wine lists, Anglais Nouveau. When the latest Beaujolais Nouveau is released for sale at midnight in France tonight, the English will strike back. After receiving the blessing of the Prime Minister, six London taxis will race across the Channel and through France to Strasbourg, carrying English food and wine to the European Parliament. English Wine and Cheese Race, as it has been dubbed by the organizers, the Conservative group of the European Parliament, believes a serious purpose. The group wants to reverse the decision of the Strasbourg authorities not to serve English wine and cheeses in the Parliament's restaurants. Six English country cheeses, Double Gloucester, Stilton, Cheshire, Leicester, Lancashire and Cheddar, and six English wines, four from Kent, one from Sussex and one from Somerset, will be served with home-made apple chutney, Sussex bread, and Kent apples and pears, at a reception in Strasbourg tomorrow night. The six taxi drivers are giving their time free for the promotion which has received the backing of Food from Britain, the Milk Marketing Board, and the English country Cheese Council, in an effort to win the French to the new taste of English food. But the plans are well laid for the entry of Beaujolais Nouveau into Britain. The wine will arrive by aircraft, by bus,



Sentimental journey: The Queen returning to Treetops, Kenya, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh and former hunter Mr Dick Prickett, who helped to move a stubborn buffalo from the royal path. (Promise fulfilled, page 4.)

Pride and protest as nation remembers

By Thompson Prentice

Britain paid tribute to her war dead at traditional Remembrance Day services yesterday while demonstrators used the occasion to highlight their fears about wars of the future.

The Prince of Wales laid a wreath at the Cenotaph on behalf of the Queen, half a world away in Kenya, as 25 protesters in Parliament Square were arrested while staging a mock "die in".

At Greenham Common, the peace women observed the two-minute silence, then held a slow march to protest at the death of an American nuclear analyst. In Dresden, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, called for international peace.

In London's chill, crippled streets, soldiers from Northern Ireland and the Falklands were wheeled past England's red wreaths, following the unflinching steps of their blinded, older comrades, and sharing with them the gentle, sad applause of the crowds.

For the first time, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament were officially, if inconspicuously, on parade, when six members of the Ex-Services CND joined the march past. A wreath laid anonymously on their behalf had the message: "Save the world for which our comrades fought and died". Ex-Services CND claims 500 members nationwide.

The last leaves of the pavement sycamores drifted down to the pavement, shaken by the wind and the parade, when the start of the silence. Police on the rooftops tilted their binoculars towards a noisy, low-flying helicopter, straying off course from an RAF base in Kent on a flight to Newcastle. "All aircraft are asked to steer clear", the CAA said. "The circumstances have been reported and will be looked at tomorrow."

As the silence ended, the Prince of Wales, representing the sovereign at the ceremony for the first time, laid the first wreath.

Continued on back page, col 1

Windscale panel to investigate 100 deaths

Investigations are being held into the cases of 100 people who died of cancer after working at Sellafield, formerly Windscale atomic power station. A sprinkling of eight test cases will go before an expert panel to determine whether compensation should be paid to the victims' dependants by British Nuclear Fuels.

Claims are being brought under an agreement between BNFL and trade unions, which avoids court hearings. The company said it expected the number of successful claims to be "very few".

Inquiries by *The Times* have established that the panel will meet at the Atomic Energy Authority's London office on December 21 and that recommendations are expected to be made for compensation in at least three of the first eight cases. The 100 victims include scientists and other white-collar workers, as well as industrial workers.

Among the first will be Mr Thomas Watson, who died of stomach cancer in 1973, aged 53. He worked at Windscale for 23 years, recovering plutonium from spent nuclear fuel.

His widow, Mary, said Mr Watson was sent home from work several times after radiation exposure.

She said: "The company used to send a green chauffeur-driven car to our house to collect samples of his tools and urine. When they were clear, he could go back to work again."

"There were times when he came home late with his face all red and shiny. That was when he had been contaminated and he had been scrubbed to get the contamination off him."

An agreement with the unions was signed last year providing a scale based on a formula taking into account the victims' ages and the amount of radiation.

The agreement covers deaths from radiation-linked diseases.

CND chief pays peace tribute to Communists

Monsignor Bruce Kent, general secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, yesterday paid warm tribute to the Communist Party for its involvement with the peace movement.

His appearance at the communist party congress in Hammersmith Town Hall, London, is bound to cause disquiet among the authorities of the Roman Catholic Church, which have already expressed concern about his activities with the CND.

Monsignor Kent told the congress: "I am honoured to be where I am. I am very proud to have been invited and glad to have been able to accept."

He said he did not know of any actions by the Communist Party to attempt to achieve sectarian advantage, to manipulate or to manoeuvre for victory through the CND.

Kent "proud", page 2

World longs for peace says Runcie

From Michael Blayton Leipzig

Giving strong support to the peace efforts of the Lutheran Church in East Germany, Dr Robert Runcie, the Archbishop of Canterbury, told a packed congregation here yesterday that easy talk about peace from those who did not see themselves as God's children was shallow and promoted cynicism.

Dr Runcie preaching on Remembrance Sunday in the rebuilt Kreuzkirche, said the world longed for profound peace but had to be cautious of "easy speeches which come too cheaply."

Making a clear distinction between the politicized peace movement of the East German Government and the church-backed peace campaign, he said the church's slogan "Gott Über Alles" was the heart of the matter. And he added: "The Christian workers for peace in this country have been an inspiration to so many in my country."

Continued on back page, col 2

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Terrorism continues as Sinn Fein heads for wider role in politics

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Provisional Sinn Fein has taken a tentative step towards lifting its ban on members taking their seats in the Dail.

But it has made clear that the violence will continue in spite of any increase in political activity.

Mr Gerry Adams, in his first presidential address to the movement, said the armed struggle was necessary and morally correct. He paid tribute to the "freedom fighters" of the IRA.

But he said the movement was not aiming to take over the Irish Republic and the strategy of revolutionary force had to be disciplined and constantly reassessed.

Mr Adams, who is MP for Belfast, West, had earlier opposed indiscriminate IRA action and said that "proper safeguards" should be taken to avoid civilian casualties.

But the Army, Royal Ulster Constabulary and Ulster Defence Regiment are seen by the movement as "legitimate targets".

That policy was emphasized on Saturday when an IRA rocket attack killed Constable Paul Clarke, and injured seven others at an RUC station in Carrickmore, Co Tyrone.

Constable Clarke, aged 29, the father of three children, was the fifth policeman to die in Northern Ireland in eight days. The attack came within an hour of the unanimous endorsement of Mr Adams, aged 34, as Sinn Fein president.

a move which sealed the ascendancy of young members from Northern Ireland who have achieved electoral success in the province.

Their dominance was also evident in the departure of Mr David O'Connell, the former IRA chief of staff, who was replaced as vice-president by a young trade unionist.

It is these young members who have argued for an end to "conspiratorial politics" in favour of open debate on the possibility of the movement rejecting abstentionism and entering the Dail as part of a plan to build support in the Republic.

They want to develop the movement as a force for political and social change in the Republic, using the "local involvement" tactics which have succeeded in Northern Ireland.

The chances of Sinn Fein members eventually taking their seats in the Dail increased after the conference agreed a motion allowing for debate on the movement's constitution.

It also voted against reaffirming the ban on discussion of abstentionism, but without the two-thirds majority necessary to alter the constitution.

The votes went against the advice of the Mr Ruairi O Braigh, the retiring president, who supported the strategy of fighting elections in Northern Ireland and the Republic, but said that to discuss taking the seats was unthinkable.

"To me, to discuss going into Leinster House is as foreign and as alien as the IRA starting to discuss a surrender of arms. It is unthinkable."

"I do not want us to start discussing converting a revolutionary movement into a constitutional party."

He said such an approach would lead to feuding. Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said yesterday that he was worried that growing support for Provisional Sinn Fein might bring it a lead at the local elections in 1985 over the Social Democratic and Labour Party.

He added that it was therefore important to strengthen constitutional nationalism among those who were prepared to work peacefully for the united Ireland which they sought.

Provisional Sinn Fein has young as a "more revolutionary type of party". The overwhelming concern was that it was attached to violence. Every time it had been challenged to renounce violence it had failed to do so.

Barry Robert Llewellyn, aged 23, of Brennan Place, Downpatrick, Co Down, appeared in court yesterday charged with murdering two RUC constables on community duty in the town on October 6.

He was also charged with membership of the IRA and will appear at Belfast Crown Court on November 21. No application for bail was made.

CND chief 'proud' to address communists

RUPERT MORRIS offers a glimpse of Britain's Communists in fractions congress yesterday at Hammersmith town hall.

Monsieur Kent, general secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, was given a rapturous reception as guest of honour at the 38th Congress of the Communist Party of Great Britain.

He declared himself "proud to have been invited and delighted to be able to accept."

Shortly afterwards he made a contribution to the day's main debate, on whether *Marxism Today*, the party's monthly journal, was ideologically acceptable. He found the publication "a stimulating, interesting journal."

The next debate was between the dominant Euro-Communist and the hard-line pro-Soviet faction, which believes the leadership is displaying dangerous revisionist tendencies.

The attack on the leadership was led by Mr Mick Costello, who accused the Euro-Communists of being "hampered by doubts about Marxist Leninism," while the Costello supporters were described by one delegate as "political dinosaurs."

However, Ms Sue Michie, from the Costello camp, warned that *Marxism Today* had



Martin Jacques: "Accused of being a success"

become "divorced from the struggle" and was even distributed by W. H. Smith - that was the ultimate sellout to capitalism.

Mr Martin Jacques, editor of *Marxism Today*, said he stood accused, as one delegate put it, of running a successful magazine - *Marxism Today* has more than doubled its circulation in six years while the party's established daily paper, *The Morning Star*, continued to lose readers.

New doubts on Reuter flotation

By David Walker

Sir Christopher Chancellor, former chief executive of Reuters, yesterday invoked the name of the eminent jurist Lord Goddard to support his argument that the news agency's trust document is an immovable obstacle to the proposed £1bn flotation of Reuters in the stock market.

Lord Goddard, as Lord Chief Justice, was involved in the drafting of Reuters' original trust deed in 1941 and was called on to approve changes in 1946 and 1950. This, Sir Christopher said, refuted the claim that altering the trust did not need high judicial approval.

Lawyers recently told Reuters board that the trust agreement - on the joint ownership of Reuters by the Press Association and the Newspaper Publishers' Association with a minority stake held by the Australian and New Zealand press associations - was merely an agreement among shareholders.

In a statement last week the Reuters board reported "useful progress" towards flotation. But there are fears that a change in ownership could threaten Reuters' traditional independence.

Investigation into plane crash at hilltop

By Ronald Faux

Accident investigators yesterday were trying to discover why a twin-engine light aircraft making an approach through cloud to Dundee airport crashed into a hill west of the city. Two men on board died, but four others, including the pilot, survived when the Cessna 310 aircraft hit a 1,000ft heather-covered hilltop, 10 miles north-east of Perth at more than 100 mph.

The survivors spent the night in the open, until a rescue team found them and they were flown by helicopter to hospital in Dundee. Their condition was "satisfactory" yesterday but police and investigating officers were not allowed to question them.

The pilot of the aircraft, Mr Stuart Palmer, aged 29, of Shobdon, near Hereford, suffered two broken ankles and facial injuries. He is chief flying instructor at the Pembrokehire flying club based at Haverfordwest, Dyfed, south-west Wales. A member of the club said yesterday that he was a highly experienced and meticulous pilot.

The aircraft, owned by Coventry Aviation, and operated by Wiltshire Flying Club, had flown north from Gatwick carrying a party of Swiss curling enthusiasts who were bound for Aberdeen.

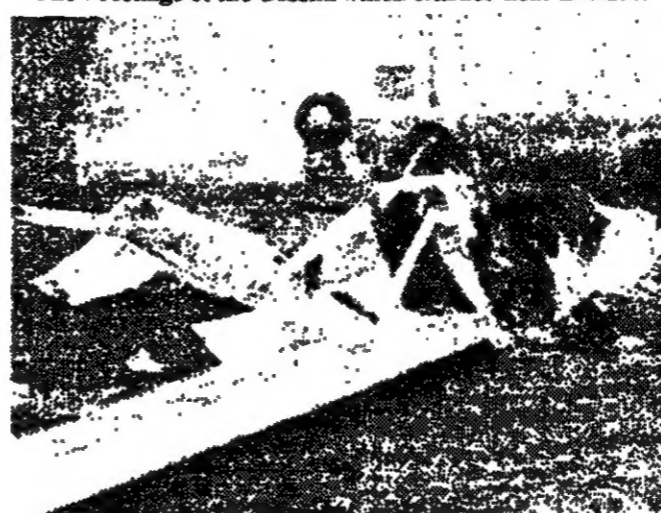
Mr Palmer, a pilot with more than 2,000 hours' experience and full instrument flying qualifications, requested a "slot" into Aberdeen but was told by the airport this was not possible. Air traffic controllers' dispute at Aberdeen had reduced the number of movements at the airport by about half.

Instead, the aircraft flew to Dundee, with Inverness as a secondary option, and was handed to the traffic controller at Dundee airport by RAF Leuchars radar as it crossed the north shore of the Firth of Forth at 4,000 ft.

Dundee does not have radar or instrument landing equipment, and relies for navigation



The wreckage of the Cessna which crashed near Dundee.



The scene of the aircraft crash at Fareham, Hampshire.

on a nondirectional radio beacon four and a half miles from the runway end.

The Cessna is understood to have overflown the beacon in the correct way and to have begun the tear-shaped flight path that should have brought it safely below cloud level and in sight of the runway lights. A specialist in instrument flying said that at the far point of the "tear" the aircraft should have been at 2,240 ft. Instead, it had struck the top of Frankly Den Hill, which is little more than 1,000 ft and was covered in mist at the time.

Rescue teams were alerted on Friday night after contact with the aircraft had been lost, but it was not until early on Saturday morning that cries for help were heard near the summit of the hill.

The aircraft had come from Goodwood Airfield.

Pilot dies after light aircraft hits viaduct

Mr Stuart Savage, aged 34, an experienced gliding instructor, died in hospital yesterday after his Cessna aircraft crashed into a railway viaduct near Fareham, Hampshire, only yards from a public house packed with lunchtime drinkers.

Wreckage from the two-seater aircraft was scattered across the main railway line between Portsmouth and Southampton and it was several hours before the line was cleared.

Mr Paul Askew, the manager of the Roundabout Hotel, said: "It was a miracle he did not crash into the pub."

The aircraft had come from Goodwood Airfield.

EEC unveils steel price curbs to end overproduction

Tough controls on minimum steel prices will be introduced next month to prevent illegal overproduction, the European Commission announced yesterday.

Producers of certain steel products will be required to put down a deposit of £27 a ton. The main product involved is hot rolled coil, for which the minimum reference price is to be dropped from £212 to £187 a ton.

The deposit will be returned after a month if the commission verifies that the steel was sold in line with new minimum prices.

The commission has rushed through the new measures because it believes that without them the industry will collapse because of over production by companies trying to make up what they are losing through low prices.

Viscount Eleanore Davignon, the Industry Commissioner, said that the commission also proposed to end what he called "fraud being perpetrated by the abusive use of 'seconds'."

He said that the fraud was carried out by making normal high-grade steel, which is covered by price controls, into "seconds", which are not. Simply by lacking a steelplate, good quality steel can be categorized as not covered by any price control.

Viscount Davignon said that there had been a noticeable increase in the movement of galvanized steelplates from Ireland to Luxembourg - but Ireland does not make that steel.

The commission, acting under EEC rules, took full charge of the steel industry in 1980 in the face of a crippling price war. Since then it has monitored prices and production quotas to keep the steel industry in check.

But, Viscount Davignon said, in the past three months prices had fallen sharply and further measures were needed. Present quotas are due to stop at the end of 1985.

Coal board presses for pits ballot

By Paul Rowlledge

The National Coal Board is preparing to take on miners' union leaders by ending their nationwide overtime ban through a £60,000 secret postal ballot of Britain's 180,000 pit workers.

As the industrial action by the National Union of Mineworkers enters its third week today, top NCB managers are working on a three-option strategy for a swift resolution of the dispute over their "final" 5.2 per cent pay offer.

Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the coal board, is considering whether he should withdraw the offer, impose it without the agreement of the union, or hold a secret postal ballot of the men to secure their approval.

He has privately said that he would prefer to "give democracy a helping hand" by organizing the poll that NUM leaders last week refused to hold despite management pleas and some evidence of rank-and-file dissatisfaction with the overtime ban.

Disclosure of the ballot plan brought a rapid and hostile response from Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, last night. He described it as "blatant interference within an independent, democratic trade union."

Mr MacGregor successfully went over the heads of union leaders to win approval for his "survival plan" for British Steel. He has been advised that it will not be as easy to repeat that success with the miners.

However, managers in the coalfields are reporting growing resentment against the NUM as the limited industrial action begins to bite into wages.

The board is not prepared to wait until December 8, the date of the next NUM executive meeting, before acting unilaterally.

If action is put off until after that date, Mr MacGregor's advisers say, resentment currently being shown against the union could shift quickly into hostility towards the board.

BR talks machinery in trouble

By Our Labour Editor

Industrial trouble is brewing in yet another nationalized industry as British Rail management prepares to abolish the arbitration body that has acted as a final appeal court for disputes for nearly 30 years.

Mr Bob Reid, British Rail's new chairman, has called in leaders of the three rail unions on December 12 to discuss a reorganization of the industry's labour relations machinery. A "significant proposal" to abolish the Railway Staff National Tribunal, chaired by Lord McCarthy.

A spokesman for the National Union of Railwaymen said of the proposal yesterday: "I would hazard a very good guess that we shall oppose it strongly. We would wish to maintain the negotiating machinery that has stood the test of time."

He pointed out that the railway chairman had said recently in his own house journal, *Rail News*, that changes had come quickly through the existing machinery.

If British Rail insists on scrapping the arbitration body which has handed down some key verdicts on pay and working practices in the past three years the unions may demand the abolition of the whole structure of joint relationships in the industry.

That would free the unions from the present system of local representation, under which staff representatives are chosen in elections conducted by management. "We could then go down the road of shop stewards," the NUR said. "That is not something the board would want."

The December conference will involve the NUR, the train drivers' union, ASLEF, and the white collar union, TSSA.

There has been strong political pressure on the British Rail Board from Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, for the reform

Farmers in court fight with potato board

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

As the last of this year's main potato crop is gathered into store, lawyers are preparing for a confrontation on whether British growers are being denied free and fair access to their own market.

Last year Mr Bob Robertson, a Kent farmer, failed to persuade a county court judge that he should not be forced to pay a £516 levy to the Potato Marketing Board.

Mr Robertson and his colleagues in the Potato Growers' Action Group are now considering whether they can afford to proceed with the case in the Court of Appeal. It is due to be heard on December 5 and could cost them up to £100,000.

The challenge to the board began in February 1981, with the formation of the group, of which Mr Robertson is joint

treasurer. Its aim is the abolition of the board.

Like the Milk Marketing Board, the FMB was established 50 years ago. Its purpose was to regulate supplies and stabilize prices in the interests of producers and consumers, by controlling acreage planted and intervening to take stocks off the market if prices fell below a guaranteed level.

The system worked so long as British growers retained a virtual monopoly, but in 1979 the European Court declared that a ban on imports was illegal.

That, in the action group's view, deprived the board of its only useful function. The board is said to have failed to prevent violent price fluctuations, and its research, advertising and marketing functions are described as superfluous.

Correction

Plaintiffs who want summonses served on debtors will no longer be able to choose to have them served by bailiffs under economies planned by the Lord Chancellor's Department. They will be served by post, and not by bailiff as stated in *The Times* on November 11.

Overseas selling prices
Australia \$22.25; Belgium \$18.50; Canada \$27.75; Denmark \$15.00; France \$20.00; Germany \$15.00; Italy \$15.00; Japan \$15.00; Netherlands \$15.00; Norway \$15.00; Sweden \$15.00; Switzerland \$15.00; Taiwan \$15.00; USA \$15.00; Yugoslavia \$15.00

Navy 'cover up' claims worry MP

By Our Defence Correspondent

Allegations that the Royal Navy has concealed the true cost of important projects will come under close scrutiny when ministers return to their desks today.

Mr Denzil Davies, a Labour spokesman on defence and disarmament said he would be raising the matter in the Commons.

Claiming to base its report on confidential Ministry of Defence papers, *The Observer* newspaper alleged yesterday: That by the spring of 1981 the cost of a Royal Navy new underground operations control headquarters at Northwood, west London, had risen from an estimated £28m-£31m to £168m.

That papers have been withheld from ministers and auditors

That attempts to reorganize the Sea Systems Controllerate have encountered fierce resistance.

That up to £200m for research and development and other expenses were concealed by the Navy when ministers were deciding to place a contract with Marconi Underwater Systems to develop the Spearfish heavyweight torpedo.

Vice-Admiral Sir Ted Horlick, who retired earlier this year as Director General, Ships, yesterday denied having written a memorandum saying that the auditors had shown no interest in the cost of the Northwood headquarters project and that it would, he advantageously if that situation could be maintained.

He said the Northwood project had never been within

his responsibility, and he had never communicated with anyone on it.

It seems likely that the estimate of the cost escalation is broadly correct, but Sir Timothy Kitson, who was chairman of the House of Commons Defence Committee until he retired from Parliament at the last general election, said that when the committee visited the Northwood site about 18 months ago, it had been given no indication that the cost was "over the top".

The Defence Committee has in the past taken considerable interest in the Ministry of Defence's procurement procedures and it would not be surprising if it did so again in the wake of these disclosures.

The Army's human factors: 1

How to fight without sleep

How long can a soldier maintain efficiency with little or no sleep? Are brief cat-naps as valuable as more sustained periods of sleep?

The answers to such questions, fascinating in themselves, are crucially important for battlefield commanders.

As the Falklands conflict neared its climax last year, one of the British commanders' main concerns was for how long the forces ashore could endure the great hardships in which they were living without losing their fighting efficiency.

The Army Personnel Research Establishment, at Farnborough in Hampshire, provides information on which commanders can base such judgment. At any time the APRE has about 80 research projects on human factors of the military machine.

Its work ranges from helping to design the most effective internal layout of a tank for the crew, assessing the effects of noise, determining standards of physical fitness, and reviewing officer selection procedures.

In a modern conventional battle which can last a fortnight of more, often in a harsh climate, as in the Falklands, one of the main deprivations will often be loss of sleep. The APRE has been researching that problem for several years.

In one experiment three platoons were engaged on a

nine-day exercise living in the open in unseasonably bad weather in Northumberland.

One platoon was not allowed to sleep, another was allowed 1½ hours sleep every 24 hours, and the other 3 hours sleep a day. All the men were volunteers and were allowed to drop out when they wished, or if medical and other observers thought it was necessary.

All the platoons which were kept without sleep dropped out after their fourth sleepless night, although observers concluded that they had ceased to be militarily effective after the third night.

Of the platoon limited to 1½ hours sleep, 39 per cent had withdrawn after five nights. About half completed the nine-day exercise, although it was estimated that those who completed the course had been effective for only six days.

On a regime of three hours sleep nearly everybody finished, as well as retaining their effectiveness throughout the whole exercise.

It was found that sleep deprivation affected mental

ability and mood, but that the physical effect was much less.

In rifle-firing tests throughout the exercise it was found that speed of reactions to fleeing targets declined markedly. But even very tired men could concentrate enough to fire a group of shots into a small target area as possible with very little loss of accuracy.

Another trial, conducted in laboratory conditions, showed that where men were limited to four hours' sleep every 24 hours it made little difference whether it came in one unbroken period of sleep, or four periods of one hour.

Although there had been fears that men would become aggressive and unpredictable as they tired, it was found in the field tests that they became more friendly and docile, and resigned to the situation.

Increasingly strong bonds of companionship developed among the men, and their n.c.s and officers reported that they had had to adopt a much more relaxed style of leadership than normal.

Tomorrow: Fit to Fight

كذلك من الأصل

Prince Andrew describes loneliness and horror of the Falklands

Prince Andrew described yesterday his experiences in the Falklands conflict, including the "horrific" moment when he saw the Atlantic Conveyor destroyed by an Exocet missile.

In an interview with David Frost on TV-am, the prince said that he had felt a certain amount of loneliness between his missions as a Royal Navy helicopter pilot.

"You tend to become a sort of zombie. All you do is eat, sleep and fly. I had an awful lot of time to myself, sitting in my cabin and now and then ducking the odd missile.

"The worst thing was actually the destruction of everything," Prince Andrew said.

He saw the Atlantic Conveyor hit, and seeing the bits and pieces that rained around, there were splashes in the water about a quarter of a mile away.

"It was an experience I shall never forget. It's still a vivid memory imprinted on my brain. It will be there for a very long time - horrific."

Asked whether his Falklands experience had helped shape his character, the prince replied: "That is a very difficult question to answer. I think being shot at is the most



Prince Andrew: "No candle-lit dinners."

character-forming thing of one's life."

Giving the interview as part of the £50,000 appeal for the restoration of the SS Great Britain, Brunel's first iron ship, Prince Andrew said that one reason he had agreed to become the appeal's patron was because of the ship's link with the Falklands.

The ship, launched in 1843, was damaged rounding Cape Horn in 1886 and limped to harbour in the Falklands where

it remained. It was sold as a hulk and used for storage and towed to Bristol in 1970.

The prince, who is 23, was not asked directly about his personal life, but he acknowledged that there were "a lot of stories" running around. "Dare I say that I deny few."

David Frost raised the subject of intrusion by photographers and suggested that they might destroy "candle-lit atmospheres". Prince Andrew replied that there were "no candle-lit atmospheres" to destroy.

In his own photograph, he said he ensured that he did not indulge in the same "bussing" of his family when he took pictures of them.

"It's great fun, and they do get slightly annoyed and complain bitterly that I am getting more and more like a pressman. But I don't do anything intrusive."

Having remarked that loneliness was a theme of his photography, the Prince was asked whether he himself was something of a loner.

"I am a recluse," Prince Andrew replied. "I don't think I am lonely. I try to keep out of people's way and I try to avoid the press."



Time lords (left to right): William Hartnell, the first Doctor Who, and his successors, Patrick Troughton, Jon Pertwee, Tom Baker and Peter Davison.

Time traveller clocks up 20 years

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

Doctor Who celebrates 20 years on British television this month. Having survived several waves of Daleks and Cybermen, the more dangerous attention of Mrs Mary Whitehouse, and four physical regenerations (also known in the theatrical profession as cast changes) only two characteristics of the original remain: its immense popularity and the singular ability of the scenery to move every time an actor bumps into it.

Worship of the Tardis, the Doctor's time machine which, through a happy malfunction of 1963, remains fixed in the guise of a police telephone box, is by no means restricted to the inhabitants of the British living room.

The programme has been sold to 54 countries and been seen by an international audience of 100 million. In the past three years, it has been discovered by that most voracious of viewing nations, the United States, and it is there that the anniversary will be celebrated most spectacularly.

Small conventions of Doctor Who fanatics have been running throughout the year, but on November 26 the event termed "the ultimate celebration" starts in Chicago. All four surviving Doctors: Patrick Troughton, Jon Pertwee, Tom Baker, and Peter Davison, will be there, accompanied by about 15 of the assistants who have aided and abetted the Doctor through the years. The producer for the past four years, John Nathan-Turner, will also attend. A twentieth anniversary

"special" will be shown by 80 television stations from coast to coast.

"Its success really lies in its brilliant basic premise: that the Doctor and a couple of sidekicks travel around in a London police box that is bigger on the inside than the outside," Mr Nathan-Turner said in breaks from shooting the next series which will appear in January and introduce a new Doctor, Colin Baker.

"Unlike many programmes that have limited storylines, we have the freedom to move from historic stories to fantastic ones as we please. I cannot see any reason why we should not do another 20 years."

Fantasy programmes have a tendency to attract dishevelled audiences. The American series Star Trek has dedicated groups of "Trekkies" throughout the world. Apart from breakfast television, the programme which provoked the largest number of viewers' letters to the BBC last year was one which was not shown: *Blake's Seven*, a space rival to the Doctor. The Corporation received 2,007 letters demanding more of the programme, many of them part of an organized lobby, according to the BBC.

But nothing has spawned a commercial empire to match that of the Doctor.

The Doctor's most scaring foes, the Daleks, will be returning to the fray in the new series. Since he has exterminated them 13 times in the past 20 years, they ought to receive some award for longevity, too.

European countries. The dealers will use them to guide customers through their range and to train staff after shop hours.

The prospect of a videodisc boom in the industrial market, for sales promotion and for training, will encourage Philips, whose LaserVision sales to the consumer market have been extremely disappointing.

from Cameron Communications of Glasgow. They incorporate a Philips LaserVision disc player and an IBM Personal Computer, and their screen can display both video images from the former and graphics or text from the latter.

The Scottish terminals will be installed in shops selling IBM Personal Computers in several

European countries. The dealers will use them to guide customers through their range and to train staff after shop hours.

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A Cyberman (left) and a Dalek

Museum 'a victim of its success'

After three weeks in operation, Glasgow's Burrell Museum is in chaos because of too many visitors.

Last night, 75,000 people had toured the £20m building, making it nearly the busiest museum or gallery in Britain.

A report has been made for the governing committee. "It is a victim of its own success," the chairman, Mr Charles Davison, said.

The main problems are in the restaurant and bars, which are served by one narrow staircase.

Mr Tom Malarkey, the city's halls and theatres director, said: "People fighting their way down meet people fighting their way up."

Emergency exits cannot be used because they are linked to an elaborate, electronic security system.

In the restaurant snacks only are being served until the number of diners slackens off.

The dishwasher can handle 200 sittings an hour, but the restaurant is doing 800.

One of the two computer-controlled units which maintain constant temperature and humidity, has been out of action since the official opening last month.

Mr Davison said yesterday: "Now we want to make sure that every defect is listed and remedied. No contractor is going to be allowed to walk away from this job."

Man who called police is shunned

A lorry driver is being shunned by the people in his home village of Abercrombie, Mid-Glamorgan, because he helped to put three burglars behind bars.

Mr Gordon Williams, aged 33, said: "My life has been hell. I have had anonymous phone calls and people on the street are calling me a grass. Even my friends at the pub won't talk to me."

Mr Williams called the police after noticing three men lurking suspiciously near his mother's home. His descriptions led to their being jailed for a number of burglaries.

He now says he will refuse to accept a £20 reward given by the judge.

Mr Williams, of Jenkin Street, said: "They can keep their £20. When the cash comes in it is going straight back. No disrespect to the judge but he could not have understood the circumstances properly."

"I am not responsible for jailing these people. I was only worried about my mother. I have been rewarded for something I have not done and I am not going to take it."

Millionaire backs Greek tours firm

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

London-based Olympic Holidays, one of the largest tour operators into Greece, has secured new financial backing of about £1m, which will enable it to carry through development plans.

The new backer is an international multi-millionaire friend of Mr Basil Mantzou, chairman and chief executive of Olympic Holidays (it has no connection with Olympic Airways).

Olympic Holidays brochures for next year are being brought out on December 8, rather later than usual and prices will be 11 per cent lower than the past season.

The company has a big investment in computerization which makes it capable of carrying around 200,000 holidaymakers in a year, substantially more than at present. That is why Olympic is aiming at expansion. Mr Mantzou will

shortly announce the appointment of a managing director to strengthen the company's executive team.

The vice-chairman of Olympic Holidays is Mr Eric Sutherland who is this year's president of the Association of British Travel Agents. "The company's board is strengthened in the summer by the addition of Mr Norman Strauss, former economic adviser to the Treasury, Mr Christopher Lawson and Professor Sir Alan Walters."

Olympic expects an increase in holidaymaking in Greece because of lower costs caused by the decline in the value of the drachma. There are similar forecasts elsewhere in the travel trade. Intasun Leisure, Britain's second largest tour operator, is launching a new Greek brochure to take advantage of the likely expansion in demand for Greek holidays.

National canvass on straw fires

More than 7,500 parish, town and community councils in England and Wales are to be canvassed in an attempt to resolve the straw burning issue, the National Association of Local Councils said yesterday.

The Association has written to all 44 of its county associations seeking a countryside evaluation so that solutions can be suggested where the impact of straw burning is considerable.

Among the suggestions already made are an outright ban, the need to enforce by-laws, the strengthening of the farmers' own straw burning code, and a call for publicity on the effect of burning on hedges, trees and wildlife.

The difficulties to road users caused by dense smoke and the nuisance of the fallow to soot and ash will be considered.

The burdens on rural fire brigades will also be investigated.

Mr Thompson at the wheel of his replica Bentley.

Mr Thompson, whose Ilford South constituency takes in a large part of the Snaresbrook catchment area, said: "Checks on jurors are totally inadequate."

The journal reports him as having said: "As far as I am concerned all defendants are not guilty unless they have been molesting kids. If a guy has done a bit of thieving to get a few bob that's all right with me."

Mr Thorpe, whose Ilford South constituency takes in a large part of the Snaresbrook catchment area, said: "Checks on jurors are totally inadequate."

Foreman of jury 'had 15 convictions'

A Conservative MP is to ask the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, to tighten checks on juror's backgrounds.

Mr Neil Thorpe was prompted by *The Magistrate*, journal of the Magistrates' Association, which published an article in which a man admitted that he had been a juror at Snaresbrook Crown Court, east London, despite having 15 convictions. In two cases he was foreman.

The journal reports him as having said: "As far as I am concerned all defendants are not guilty unless they have been molesting kids. If a guy has done a bit of thieving to get a few bob that's all right with me."

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£15,000 bill for idle civic horses

Ratepayers are paying about £500 a week to keep two mayoral horses that have not been used for more than six months.

The new Labour majority on Liverpool City Council abolished the post of Lord Mayor in May and the new council chairman refused to use the coach and horses for civic ceremonies.

So far this year £15,000 has been spent keeping the horses stabled and employing two grooms to look after them.

Opposition Liberal councillors accuse Labour of dragging its feet and say the horses should be either used or retired to a farm.

Councillors will consider a report on the future of the horses meeting of the general services committee this month.

The chairman, Mr Peter Lloyd said the report had been held up by the various departments working on it.

Tourist record for Scottish trust properties

A record total of 1,500,012 people visited National Trust for Scotland properties in the 1983 season, the trust said yesterday. That figure is more than 10 per cent above the total for 1982.

The top attractions in 1983 were:

Caithness Country Park 288,213
Glasgow Castle 186,110
Glen Coe Visitor Centre 108,525
Inverewe Garden 107,592
Culloden Visitor Centre 87,020
Cullinstown Visitor Centre 86,929
Crestwell Castle and Garden 74,486
Burrendown Heritage Centre 54,058
Brooklands Castle and Garden 53,125
Falkland Palace and Garden 50,359

Soldiers dig up historic site

The Army admitted yesterday that soldiers had dug up the site of a Romano-British settlement at Chisenbury Warren on Salisbury Plain.

The site, a scheduled monument, was defaced by about 34 large holes averaging about 10ft in diameter.

An Army spokesman expressed regret for the incident, which happened in the last few weeks, and said the holes had been filled in again.

Bank chief dies in climbing fall

The deputy chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland, Mr John Burke, has died after falling more than 600ft in a climbing accident near Brixton of Orkney, Argyll. His climbing partner, Dr James Manson, raised the alarm.

Mr Burke, aged 59, was previously the bank's managing director between 1970 and 1982.

Factory fire

A toy factory on the site of the former MG Motor Company works at Abingdon, Oxford, was wrecked by fire on Saturday evening. Damage at the Action Toy and Games Company was estimated at £1m.

Many pubs admitting children, guide says

By a Staff Reporter

Public houses throughout Britain are breaking the law by admitting children into bars, *The Good Pub Guide* says today.

The guide's editor, Mr Alisdair Aird, says that of more than 1,100 public houses selected for the guide, nearly two thirds admitted children, although by law anyone under 15 is banned from a bar serving alcohol.

The guide, published by the Consumers' Association and Hodder & Stoughton, calls for children to be allowed in at the landlord's discretion, or for the law to be enforced.

It says: "In practice, in many places individual publicans allow children (with a responsible adult, of course) into virtually any part of the pub, while in other places the police, interpreting and enforcing the law strictly, stop this. Either way, the law should surely have the same effect everywhere."

It criticises pubs which no longer make sandwiches, "the ideal pub snacks". And it says that the cheapest beer in Britain can be found in Lancashire.

Other places where a pint should not cost much more than 50p are, in order of cheapness, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Yorkshire, Cumbria, Cornwall, Shropshire, Durham, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. The most expensive beer is in London.

Four public houses receive the guide's top rating of three stars, meaning that they could not be better. They are the Fleeca, Bretforton, Hereford and Worcester; the Three Chimneys, near Biddenden, Kent; the Yew Tree, Caidon, Staffordshire; and the White Horse, near Petersfield, Hampshire.

The Good Pub Guide (Consumers' Association and Hodder & Stoughton, £6.95).

Tipping 'blot on hotel industry'

Charging for service and tipping for tips in hotels and restaurants has become "institutionalized begging or extortion" and should be abolished, *The Good Hotel Guide* says today.

Next year the guide plans to use a special insignia to denote hotels which are keen to see tipping and service charges abolished.

The Good Hotel Guide (Consumers' Association and Hodder & Stoughton, £7.95).

Police to visit prisoner over 'hit-man' claims

Ronald Waldron, aged 58, the convicted child killer, will meet police officers this week in prison to discuss allegations that he killed 25 people, 19 of them as a "hit man" for Arab terrorists and the IRA. He will be interviewed by detectives in the presence of Mr Rex Makin, his new solicitor, who said yesterday that his client would cooperate fully.

Waldron was sentenced to life imprisonment last week at Liverpool Crown Court for murdering his nephew aged five and for the attempted murder of the boy's mother.

Mr Makin said last night: "Mr Waldron has dismissed his solicitor, Mr Alexander Calverley."

"It will be recalled that Mr Calverley alleged that my client

Bentley hobby becomes big business

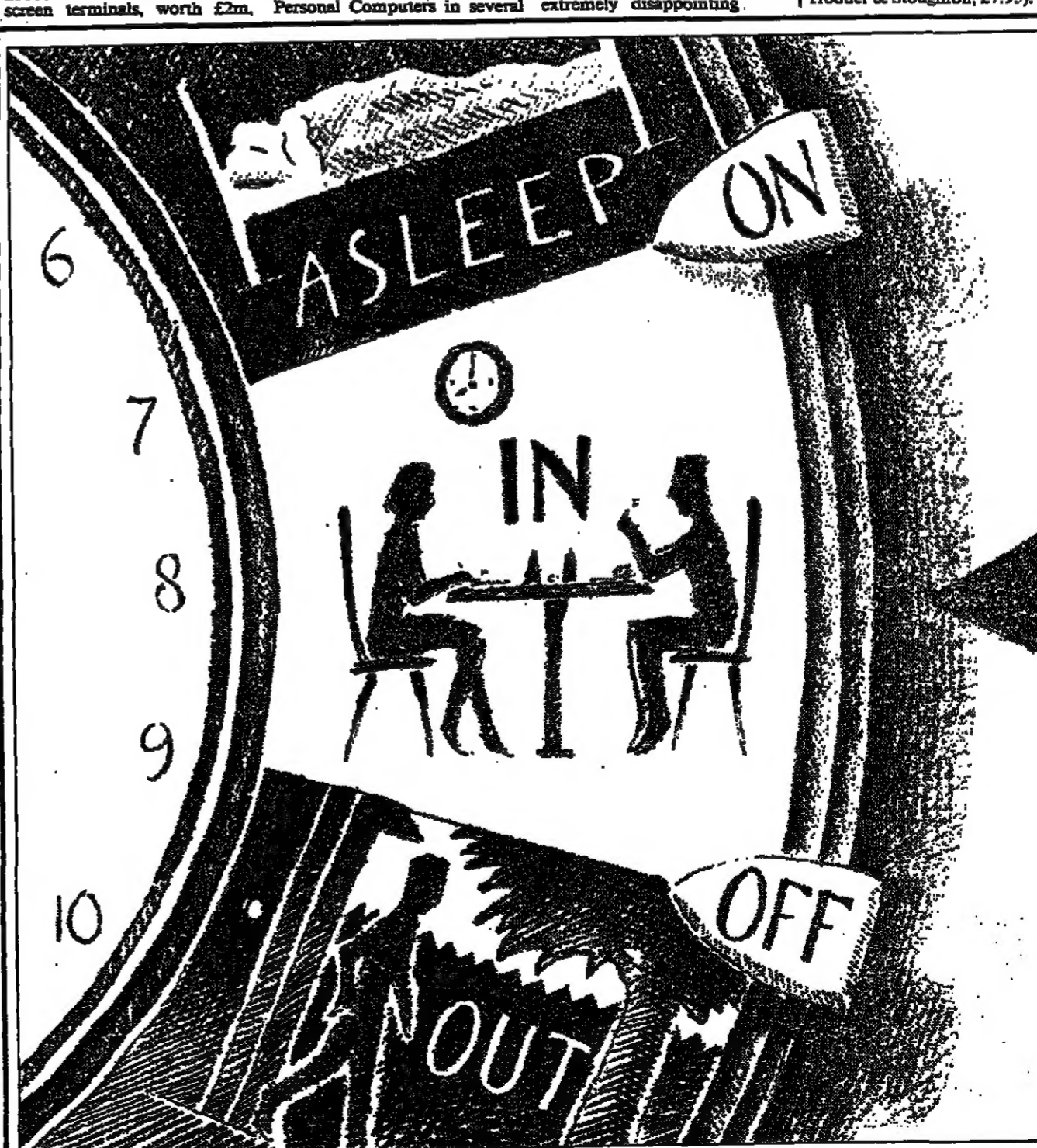
Mr Frank Thompson's hobby could turn into a profitable business. He hopes to produce six replica vintage Bentleys next year for sale at £32,000 each.

Mr Thompson, who owns the Spinning Wheel public house on Paignton seaford, in Devon, has bought enough land from Torbay council on Yalberton industrial estate to build 18 small factory units.

Eight of them will be used to make replica Bentleys, providing employment and training for local unemployed teenagers.

Mr Thompson said yesterday that his first hand-finished car had taken 4,000 hours to build and that two more were under construction.

"These cars will be turned out exactly as they were in 1925."



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The royal tour

Queen fulfils a promise and returns to Treetops after 31 years

From Alan Hamilton, Nyeri, Kenya

The Queen yesterday fulfilled a promise of 31 years ago. She came back to Treetops, where she spent the night of February 5, 1952, blissfully unaware of her father's death at Sandringham.

Her return was more duty than pleasure, for the memories it stirred can only have been unhappy. She appeared apprehensive and uneasy, caring to stay no longer than necessary, arriving 10 minutes late but leaving on time.

The Treetops she knew, a simple hide of three bedrooms and a chemical toilet set in a giant fig tree overlooking a waterhole, was burnt to the ground by the Mau Mau in 1954. It has been replaced by a modern 38-bedroomed hotel on stilts.

On her last visit, it is recorded, when she stayed awake all night, she saw 47 elephants. Yesterday there were none, only half a dozen warthogs, several baboons, two gazelles leaping with consummate grace in the distance, and three prowling Cape buffalo wagging their ears and looking exceedingly nasty.

The Queen spent a few minutes on the hotel roof inspecting the sunlit scene. "Oh look, Philip, buffalo", she said to the Duke of Edinburgh.

"Darling, look, he's wallowing". The buffalo proceeded with his bath in the orange muddied waters of the pool, oblivious of the royal gaze.

The Duke of Edinburgh remarked on the absence of trees compared with the thick cover that had clothed the edges of the pool in 1952. The elephants, it was explained to him, had eaten them all, anxious for food to accompany their drink.

The Queen signed the visitors' book and cut a commemorative cake, but ignored the brass plaque recording the circumstances of her last visit. She and the Duke were then invited to walk round the pool to the site of the old hide, now no more than a charred stump, so that press and television cameramen, after much negotiation with Palace officials, could capture an historic picture.

"Oh dear," said the Queen, as she was guided downstairs to the pool. The royal person was guarded and guarded past the snarls of giant elephant droppings by Mr Richard Prickett, a game warden bearing eight bullets and a double-barrelled elephant gun of 1912 vintage, and a small group of soldiers ready to throw stones at anything that came too near, be it buffalo or cameraman.

Of much greater significance than the near-stunt of Treetops was the Queen's arrival in private on Saturday at Sagana Lodge, a beautiful stone and cedar country house given to her by Kenya as a wedding present, which she handed back at independence in 1963.

It was here, on her return from Treetops, at 2.45 in the afternoon of February 6, 1952, that she learned of her accession to the throne.

She returned to Sagana Lodge 31 years later in the late afternoon to a breathtaking view, as the bonnet of cloud that usually caps Mount Kenya, 20 miles away astride the Equator, drifted aside to reveal the 17,000ft peak in snowy sunlit glory.

Sagana has been altered and enlarged, but the Queen was still able to recognize much of it. And she met a gardener who had helped her to plant two trees on her last visit. To mark her return, she planted another.

It was the properly private moment of her return. She and the Duke dined with only a few close members of their household: for a few quiet hours the Kenyan hosts and the press turned their backs on a deeply personal occasion.

Anxious to please in Bangladesh

From Michael Hamlyn, Dhaka

When the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh arrive in Dhaka today, they will find that a good deal of whitewashing has been going on. New tarmac is being laid on the road from the airport and flowers are being planted in newly-built borders.

The soldiers, who seized power from the elected President two years ago, are anxious to present their regime in as good a light as possible, and to be fair, there are many regimes which have behaved in more repressive fashion.

Lieutenant-General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, who was the chief of army staff and is now the chief martial law administrator, has been ruling with something like the approval, at least the acquiescence, of the Bangladeshi people.

Unlike his opposite number in Pakistan, his martial law courts are not handing out sentences of flogging and heavy fines on political agitators. The only people in his jails are those

convicted of genuine offences of corruption.

The diplomatic community and organs of international finance seem pleased with the general's performance. He and his finance minister have fulfilled the demands made on them by the IMF and the World Bank. Although Bangladesh remains the second poorest country in the world, they seem able to begin rethinking their industrial strategy.

The denationalization of the main industries has impressed the Western economic powers. Not everyone is convinced, however, that denationalization is necessarily a good thing. Opposition sources are quick to point out that one of the first results was a quick round of price cutting which did nothing for the balance of payments except drive it further into the red.

But perhaps General Ershad's greatest achievement has been in restraining the regime itself.

"Ershad is keeping those thugs with guns in their hands together," said a prominent intellectual.

"The idea that they could come out of the cantonment like they did in 1975, that scares me," he said. "I've got children and a stake in this country, and the dust has not settled yet."

There is a real fear among some Bangladeshis of what the young officers in the Army might have done if General Ershad and the major-generals had not stepped in to take power themselves. Since independence, the Army had been a reluctant and sometimes awkward coalition of those who fought in the independence war and those who were held prisoner in the west.

It is not always clear whether General Ershad is a military dictator in his own right or a front man for a junta. There have been occasions when his publicly expressed preference had not carried the day.

Trudeau initiative for reducing tension

From John Best, Ottawa

M. Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, called yesterday for the early establishment of a forum in which global limits on strategic arms would be set for all five nuclear weapons states.

The idea was part of a four-point programme for reducing East-West tensions which the Prime Minister unveiled at a Liberal Party fund-raising luncheon in Montreal.

Mr Trudeau, who returned from a six-nation tour of Western Europe on Friday night, said European leaders had given him "the assurance of their personal attention to his programme."

Another element in the programme calls for a ban on the testing and deployment of high altitude anti-satellite weapons systems.

Woman may join Swiss Cabinet

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Mrs Lilian Uchtenhagen, aged 55, a Zurich MP, has been chosen by the Swiss Socialist Party as its candidate for a vacant Cabinet seat in the coalition Government.

This is the first time in Swiss history that a woman has been nominated for such a post. As one of the seven Cabinet ministers, she would take her turn in assuming the presidency of the Confederation for a 12-month period.

Mrs Uchtenhagen, who has been an MP since 1971, obtained 31 votes, the necessary minimum at a meeting of the party committee.

It is by no means certain, however, that she will be accorded majority support when her nomination is put to Parliament on December 7.

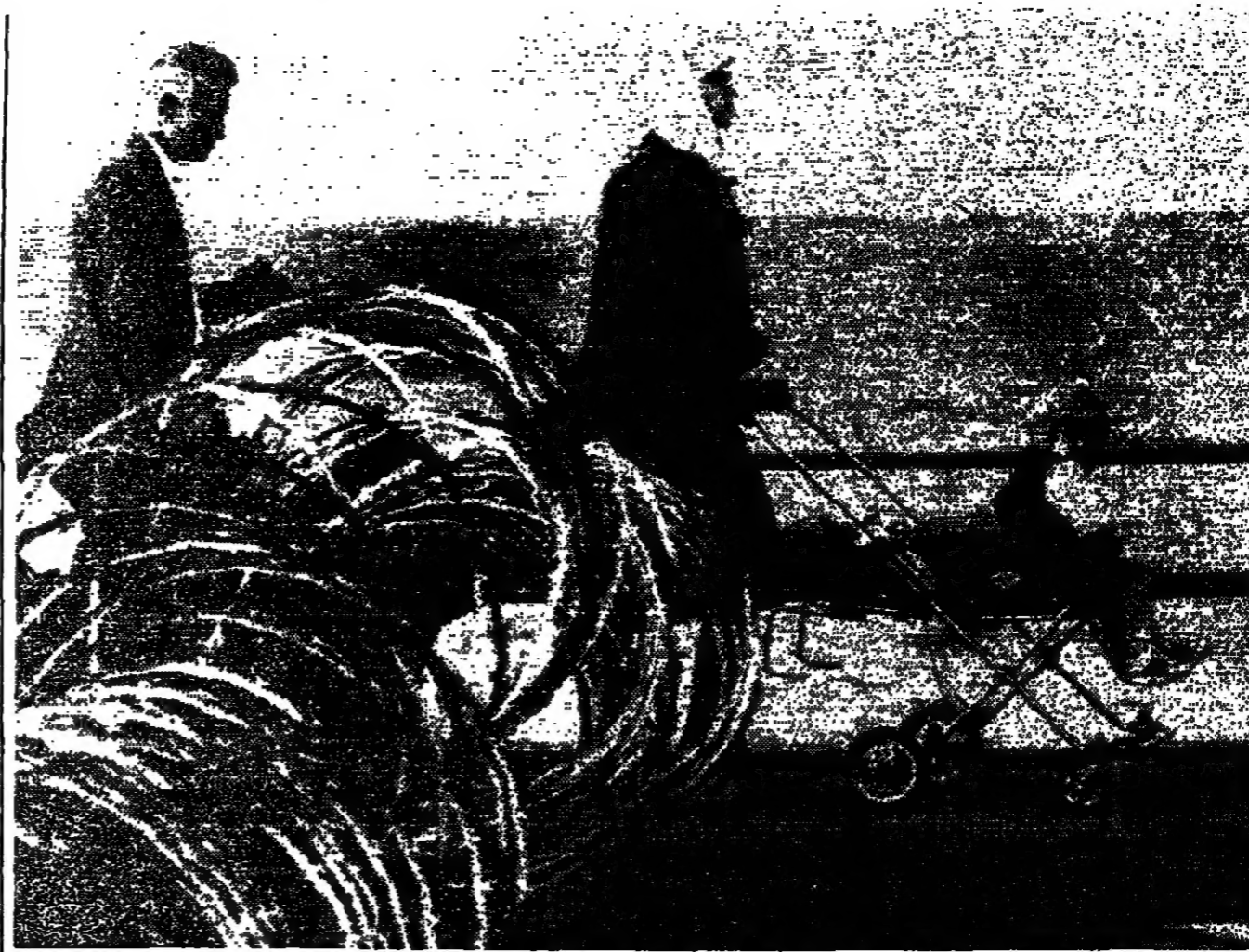
While Swiss women secured the vote 14 years ago, men are far from regarding women as equal even if, according to an adroitly-timed opinion poll, 67 per cent of the Swiss think it is time for a woman to enter the Cabinet.

Another 90 Grenadians associated with the overthrown People's Revolutionary Army walked to freedom from their tent prisons at the US-run Point Salines detention centre yesterday, leaving behind 140 men whose importance and role remains clouded.

They have been divided into four groups based on an assessment of their likely seniority in the regime of Maurice Bishop, the assassinated Prime Minister, and in the subsequent brief military dictatorship.

People whom the authorities want to keep isolated from time to time spend periods in 10R by 10R wooden crates constructed by the US military since the invasion on October 25. There are apertures for air, and when the lone occupant wants to visit the lavatory he waves a small flag at his guards. Without talking to anybody he is marched off, escorted into the lavatory and taken straight back.

According to US military officials, a prisoner will



War and peace: A Sunday afternoon stroll along Beirut's Corniche beside the tanktraps and barbed wire.

Rumsfeld sent to mediate in Lebanon

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Mr Donald Rumsfeld, President Reagan's newly-appointed special envoy, was on his way to the Middle East yesterday for talks with Arab and Israeli leaders aimed at defusing the explosive situation in Lebanon since the recent bomb attacks against American, French and Israeli military headquarters.

Congress has voted to stop all US aid to Syria because of that country's hostile attitude towards America. The vote means that Syria will not now receive the \$125m (£85m) earmarked for it in the Foreign Aid Bill which Congress passed on Saturday.

As in the case of his two predecessors - Mr Philip Habib and Mr Robert McFarlane - the State Department has not

released details of Mr Rumsfeld's itinerary in advance. However, he is expected to have talks with the leaders of Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

It is his first visit to the region since his appointment at the beginning of this month.

His most important meeting will be with President Assad of Syria who has so far turned down American attempts to persuade him to withdraw 40,000 Syrian troops from Lebanon. Relations between Washington and Damascus have been severely strained because of the US belief that Syria was partly responsible for blowing up the US Marine headquarters in Beirut, which killed 239 US servicemen.

In the past few days Syrian gunners have fired at US Navy F14 jets flying reconnaissance missions near Beirut.

Despite these tensions, however, the US recognizes that Syria is a key element in any agreement that may emerge from the Lebanese national reconciliation talks taking place in Geneva, which could in the longer term lead to a withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

Mr Rumsfeld is also expected to hold talks with President Gemayel of Lebanon and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, both of whom are due to visit Washington in the next two weeks.

His trip to the Middle East means that it is now most

unlikely the US will take retaliatory action over the bombing of the Marines headquarters while Mr Rumsfeld is in the region.

The Foreign Aid Bill contains a new provision which forbids giving foreign aid to any country which the President rules "is engaged in a consistent pattern of opposition to the foreign policy of the United States".

As usual, Israel receives the lion's share of the \$11,500m foreign aid package. Its 1984 allocation amounts to \$1,760m in economic assistance and a further \$650m in arms loans.

Egypt is the second largest recipient with \$750m in economic aid and \$465m in military assistance.

Wave of violence escalates in West Bank

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Three Palestinian Arabs were shot and wounded and an Israeli injured by a rock in the Dheisha refugee camp near Bethlehem yesterday in a weekend of escalating Palestinian unrest in the West Bank.

The wave of violence related to tensions and anxieties over the bloodshed between PLO factions in neighbouring Lebanon came to a climax on Saturday with the fatal shooting of two young men in Tulkarm.

According to Israeli sources, the pair, and others, their faces concealed by chequered keffiyas had tried to enforce a commercial strike and demonstration in support of the PLO loyalists fighting under Mr Yasser Arafat in Tripoli, northern Lebanon.

When they stoned shop windows in the town's main square and threw rocks at passing cars, the border police were called.

An army communiqué said police were greeted with a shower of stones and turned their guns on the rioters only after verbal warnings and shots into the air had failed to stop them.

Three more masked teenagers then gave themselves up and a dozen others were later detained. An explosive device was found yesterday near a military base at Tulkarm and was safely dismantled.

Dheisha was under curfew because of earlier stoning incidents when the fighting broke out yesterday afternoon. Military sources said a border police patrol moving through

the camp was suddenly attacked by a mob throwing rocks and swinging heavy implements. One policeman was injured about the head.

Stoning of traffic continued

yesterday in various parts of the West Bank, and it was also reported that two Lebanese Shia Muslims in Tibnia were killed by a bomb when they entered their car.

Rabat renews Cairo link

From Geoffrey Morrison, Rabat

Moroccan leaders will meet Mr Kamal Hassan Ali, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, here today.

It is the first visit by an Egyptian minister to Morocco since Rabat broke diplomatic relations with Cairo in 1979 after Egypt's peace agreement with Israel.

The talks are expected to centre on the Middle East, the

crisis in Lebanon and the western Sahara.

In spite of the absence of formal diplomatic links, relations between Morocco and Egypt have remained cordial, with President Mubarak supporting King Hassan's initiatives in the Middle East and King Hassan prominent among those leaders trying to bring Cairo back into the Arab fold.

Russians lose no sleep over Andropov

Moscow - Soviet officials insist that there is no cause for alarm over the health of President Andropov, and they say he may make a public appearance soon to calm speculation (Richard Owen writes).

According to some reports the Kremlin is considering making a public statement about the Soviet leader's health. He is believed to have undergone a kidney operation, although Soviet officials insist he has been suffering from a cold.

The nervousness, which began Western money markets on Friday after a rumour that Mr Andropov had died, was reflected in Moscow, Russia, which was much more preoccupied with the deep blanket snow immobilizing it.

Peking editors removed

Peking (Reuters) - Several editors of China's most influential newspaper, the Communist Party People's Daily, have been forced out of office in an intensification of an anti-liberal campaign, diplomatic sources said.

The sources said Mr Hu Jiwei, the paper's director for about a year, had "retired" and that a leading ideologist, Mr Wang Ruoshui, had been dismissed after a long-standing row with Mr Hu Yaobang, the party leader, over the sensitive issue of purging richard leftists.

Salyut refuelled

Moscow (AFP and AP) - The Salyut 7 space station, carrying two cosmonauts since June 21, was successfully refuelled by the Progress 18 supply craft which docked with it on October 22, it was reported in an answer to Western speculation. The cargo ships propulsion unit was also used to adjust Salyut's flight path.

Casino arrests

Milan (AP) - The Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Campione d'Italia, one of the four towns whose casinos were closed last Thursday by police looking for "dirty money", were arrested on corruption charges at the weekend.

Nuclear need

Islamabad (Reuters) - Pakistan is preparing an ambitious nuclear power programme to meet its energy needs, the Water and Power Minister, announced. Four or five nuclear plants of 900 megawatt capacity each were needed.

Deadly peaks

Katmandu (Reuters) - The season's death toll in the Himalayas rose to 21, with the fatal fall of a Japanese mountaineer Chikihito Chin on Dhaulagiri One. Nineteen died in 1972, the previous worst season since the area was opened to foreigners in 1949.

Gun and mortar battle on Honduran frontier

From Alan Tomlinson, Cienfuegos, Honduras

Honduran and Nicaraguan border guards have fought a four-hour gun and mortar battle, the most serious incident yet in a series of exchanges along their 500-mile frontier.

Both countries gave conflicting versions of how the fighting started. The Hondurans said a foot patrol was attacked by Sandinista troops while Nicaraguans said its soldiers came under mortar fire first.

The battle took place at the remote frontier post of Cienfuegos in the El Paraiso province of Honduras on Friday. Previous exchanges have been much briefer and often the result of Nicaraguan soldiers pursuing anti-Sandinista Contras back over the border.

All was quiet again over the weekend when I visited Cienfuegos and other villages in the zone. Soldiers of the Honduran Sixth Battalion seemed relaxed and jovial.

The winding mountain road is often mined. A number of peasants have been killed recently and earlier this year two American journalists died when they drove over a landmine. Their burnt-out car still lies in a ditch by the side of the dirt track.

I took the precaution of driving to Cienfuegos in a pick-up truck, then unloading a cross-country motor cycle to run the gamut over the broken and pitted frontier trail.

The soldiers are bivouacked at intervals withing sight of each other. They told me the fighting had been heavy. Two of their number were badly wounded and an unknown number of Nicaraguans were hit.

They said the incident took place 400 yards inside their territory but the terrain here is so steep and densely wooded that the exact line of the frontier is anybody's guess.

They pointed out peasant huts destroyed by mortar shells and said frequent bombardments were preventing these communities from harvesting their coffee.

There was no sign of the Contras, who in the past have used Cienfuegos as a staging post. The soldiers said they had moved deep inside Nicaraguans.

Claims by Contra leaders that their camps are established in Nicaragua itself provoke scepticism among correspondents in Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital.

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Reagan ends Far East tour with a long, hard look at North Korea



Looking north: President Reagan observing North Korean positions, and talking to the commander of a US guard post.



Massive security for President's DMZ visit

President Reagan could not have had a more dramatic forum in which to encapsulate the anti-communist rhetoric of his Asian tour.

Less than two miles to the front was the North Korean border. Just behind, two sand-bagged mortar positions and, beneath his podium, a crescent of men of the US Second Division, Ninth Infantry, whose job it is to patrol the Demilitarized Zone that separates North and South Korea.

On the harsh, scrub-covered hill to his right was a South Korean radar post, watching for any threat from the north at this the most forward American military position in the world.

After a church service under a powder-blue sky, the setting pure Hollywood, the Commander-in-Chief, his voice occasionally catching with emotion, told the men: "You stand between the free world and the armed forces of a system hostile to everything we believe in as Americans."

"The communist system to the north is based on hatred and oppression. It brutally attacks every form of human liberty and declares those who worship God to be enemies of the people. Its attack against the leaders of the South Korean Government in Rangoon made clear what kind of enemy you face across the DMZ."

If talking about freedom, one of the themes of the President's Far East tour, is justified anywhere in the world it is in South Korea, and not merely because of the deaths of 269 people in the Korean Airlines Boeing 747, shot down by the Soviet Union, and the Rangoon bombing a little over a month ago.

The Burma bombing killed 17 South Koreans, including four Cabinet ministers and eight other senior political figures. Burma has withdrawn diplomatic recognition of Pyongyang as a result of the attack.

Reagan would not leave the South alive at the end of what the North called a "war junket" did not deter him from being the first American leader to visit the DMZ.

But with the President in North Korea, the security precautions were extraordinary. 10,000 US troops were deployed discreetly around Camp Liberty Bell and a special quick-response squad was ready to snatch the President back to the safety of the base in two minutes if there was an incident.

At least once near the DMZ the President switched cars, and on Saturday when Mr Reagan went to address the National Assembly a phoney motorcade, complete with blaring headlights and motor cycle escorts, was staged 15 minutes before the President drove up in the real one.

On the return trip from the DMZ the press buses were watched by Korean plainclothes

men every 50 yards in built-up areas.

The address to the National Assembly gave him the opportunity to project what he called "a new era of confidence and sense of purpose in the United States, while pledging full support for the South Korean Government against a North Korea 'waging a campaign of intimidation' and 'perched and primed for conflict'."

But was missing in both Japan and South Korea was any feeling that the President was meeting the people of those countries.

In Seoul the lack of concern for domestic freedoms was particularly marked, despite assertions by the White House that the President would draw the South Korean Government's attention to large-scale detentions and protests which took place before his arrival.

Accurate figures are hard to obtain, but estimates of the number of people held under

varying degrees of restraint during the visit go up to 1,200 according to one South Korean source.

Throughout the visit the White House has maintained that it is satisfied with the progress towards full democracy in South Korea and that in any case, it intended to make its point to the South Korean by means of quiet diplomacy.

Since last night, however, the White House spokesman no longer speaks of human rights but of "democratic rights", which he feels to be more appropriate.

When he flies back to Washington today the President can be assured of two things: Both North and South Korea have been left in no doubt that the United States would react swiftly to any further North Korean outrages; and film of the border visit, where Mr Reagan, was artfully seated next to black soldiers at every opportunity, must help any presidential campaign next year.

Spain's prospects in the EEC

Rural discontent along the banks of the misty Ebro



EBRO JOURNEY Part 1

Whatever the outcome of next month's European Community summit in Athens, Spain will remain a firm candidate for eventual membership of the EEC. Applying a human yardstick to the country's problems, Richard Wigg, Madrid correspondent, has travelled down the Ebro, Spain's most important river, from Cantabria to the Mediterranean and through the heartland likely to be most affected by the EEC. In this first of four articles, he reports from Reus.

An autumn Sunday morning and mist still clings to the green Cantabria hills at whose feet water wells up in a glade. Not far from the source of the Ebro, a party of local farmers, Reusosa factory executives, a solicitor and a bank manager, out shooting fallow deer or wild boar, rest after the dogs have again failed to pick up the scent.

"The small farmers around here - a man, his wife and children - will have to disappear, whether Spain joins the Common Market or not," José, the 26-year-old son of a dairy farmer with a herd of 100 Friesians, tells me. "Technical development will have to come, raising Spain's herds to European levels of milk production. You are very advanced. I've seen it in England." His father began mechanizing six years ago, unable to get labour which had gone to the towns. Now, they employ only three men on the 120-acre farm.

"There's a lot of land unused here," José said. He first tried to become a doctor and then worked in a bank before deciding to come back and help his father. He gestured towards the surrounding countryside: "It needs capital to pull up the scrub, turn it into pasture and then buy the cattle. There should be a stronger presence by the Government to develop all this, but, in Spain, governments never have the money for such things."

By contrast, Eduardo is the son of a poor peasant with a patch of land and a few cows. The father went to work as a labourer in a Reusosa steel-works during the boom years of the 1950s to provide for his family. He was pensioned early after an accident.

Eduardo, who lives in a tiny village, looks after the nine cows, rearing the calves for meat. Intelligent, he is desperate to escape from subsistence agriculture to urban life. Spain's prolonged economic crisis meant he could not follow further into the steelworks after his apprenticeship had finished.

"There are only 10 young people in the village. You can only play skittles here. Rural life is solitary, there's more variety of people in Reusosa. You learn new things as a bartender in a town."

"I want to organize my life. If I could have a bar of my own... Eduardo goes on after a pause: "It's not enough to publish figures of more than two million jobs. They should give people like me a chance to speak out on television."

As he leaves to give the cows their feed for the night, he admits that subsistence farming passes the time better than if he were forced to idle away the hours in a Madrid industrial suburb.

His mother, after he has gone, asks me: "Couldn't you do anything for him? He's like a bird in a cage." The father burst out: "Let them open the factory doors again and give the young people jobs!"

Eduardo was born into a family on the bottom rung of Spain's one million smallholdings, which have virtually no

economic future in a market economy unless they can be modernized. The economic crisis has revealed cruelly the deficiencies of the Franco regime's development model based on industrialization with a neglect of agriculture.

Later in the journey, I was to hear Señor Carlos Romero, the Agriculture Minister, promise schemes to encourage unemployed young people to return to the villages and recultivate the land. But the rural exodus to the factories of the Franco years left older people to do the job, or the women alone. More than 60 per cent of Spain's farmers are aged between 40 and 60. Once the taste of modern urban living standards has been acquired, it is an uphill task to redirect young energies to the land and modernize techniques. And, bitter twist, modernization means fewer farm-workers. Tomorrow: The grape pickers.



Lisbon banquet: Señor González, left, with Dr Soares

Soares preempts joint Iberian approach

From Our Special Correspondent, Lisbon

Spain and Portugal are seeking a final decision on their negotiations to enter the European Community when the 10 EEC members hold their summit meeting in Athens next month.

"We have a right to demand that the EEC partners, say clearly what their position is," Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, said here in frustrated tones before flying back to Madrid yesterday.

But as he and Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Prime Minister, signed a so-called Declaration of Lisbon "pledging a more fruitful relationship between the two Iberian nations", the Portuguese Prime Minister had already sent off a personal letter to the Ten arguing for his country's entry. He did not wait for the Lisbon meeting to agree the text of

a joint approach as Señor González had intended. The Lisbon declaration told the Ten that budgetary difficulties cannot justify forgetting the historic task of enlarging the Community.

Dr Soares argues it is up to Europe to decide when Portugal enters, while insisting his country cannot wait "indefinitely", implying the January, 1986, date regardless of Spain's position.

The two premiers agreed to meet annually to impart political impetus to closer Iberian relations and to form a permanent secretariat.

Experts are to start talks on a new fishing programme and on tariff concessions Spain might make to ease Portuguese exports. Road bridges are to be built over the Guadiana and Minho rivers.

UK women jailed in vice mix-up

Harare (AP) - Soldiers forced five British teachers into a lorry and then jailed them in a nationwide crackdown on prostitutes which has resulted in hundreds of married and single women and even school-children being detained.

The teachers were arrested on Friday night in Gweru, 140 miles south of Harare. Soldiers toting sub-machine guns, police and members of Mr Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union's youth brigade swooped on women in night clubs, cinemas, hotels, supermarkets and private homes, in seven of the country's main towns.

"They kept us in jail for five hours cramped like sardines, 16 to 10 in a cell," said Miss Angie Collier, aged 26, who came to Zimbabwe from London, in May to teach at Gweru's Nashville High School.

She was arrested, she said, because she and other white friends had protested when soldiers raided the theatre where they were watching a film and arrested all black women, including fellow teachers.

"We went outside to try to get a particular friend of ours out. We told the soldiers that she was a teacher. But there was so much confusion. The soldiers had been drinking and everyone was shouting and arguing."

"Eventually, they just forced all of us into the truck. I was holding my boy friend's hand and they just wrenched us apart."

Miss Collier was released only after her boy friend and other friends had contacted the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Warsaw takes a big risk

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Polish authorities have announced proposals for a wide range of food price rises, a controversial issue that in the past has sparked off riots, toppled governments and helped to spawn Solidarity.

The price increase, to come into force on January 1, is the riskiest undertaking by the Jaruzelski Government since it lifted martial law last July. Every effort is being made to defuse potential unrest. Polish television has been instructed by the Central Committee to play a calming role.

The Polish people have been given special telephone numbers to ring to express their grievances and the new post-Solidarity trade unions are supposed to hold briefing sessions for factory workers over the next month.

The idea of printing the proposals now is to eliminate the element of surprise - according to party analysts the prime cause of riots in the past - and induce a sense of inevitability. Poles are asked to choose between two scales of

price increases, one that would raise living costs by about 4.5 per cent and the other that would involve a 6.5 per cent increase but with special compensatory payments for the lower paid.

Polish television broadcast interviews at the weekend with several dozen shoppers in the street and did not censor out critical opinions. One woman standing in a snow-blown Gdansk street shouted at the camera that she could not afford to pay 120 zlotys for butter out of her child support allowance of 4,000 zlotys (about £114) a month. Another worker said that any increase whatsoever in the bread price would be unacceptable. Others complained about the quality of food.

The first category of price rises will add the equivalent of £800m to the national food bill but will not reduce the heavy subsidies on food. The second will add £1,100m to the bill but will reduce some of the subsidies. Basic foods will rise by

between 10 and 15 per cent but the cost of butter will increase, under the proposals, by 40 per cent and chicken by up to 70 per cent. Butter rationing was reimposed last week, apparently to forestall large-scale hoarding.

The official press has blamed the rise in the cost of chickens on American sanctions which have denied Poland maize and other chicken feed. The politburo met on Friday and called a full plenary session of the Central Committee for this Friday to be specially devoted to economic matters. The discussions will give added support to the Government in its contention that food prices have to be increased.

But the large number of Central Committee members with official posts in factories may well lead to some plain speaking about the management of the economy.

Representatives of party cells in the 200 principal Polish factories have already warned the party leadership that food price rises may trigger disturbances.

Hongkong looks for a palliative

By Henry Stanhope

Diplomatic Correspondent

Hongkong's 5.3 million people are awaiting the sparse official statement which will follow the latest round of talks on the colony's future, today and tomorrow. They can only hope for a choice of words which will take away their fears and give them confidence.

Last month's two-day session in Peking was described by the British side as "useful and constructive" - the first time that even those cautious words of approval had been used. More recently Mrs Margaret Thatcher encouraged optimism by announcing that Britain would insist on a continuing presence after 1997, when China wants to resume control, while Mr Deng Liqun, China's director of information, indicated that Peking would allow Hongkong to continue its capitalist economy after that date - at least for some time.

Confidence is important not only for economic reasons, but to prevent a mass exodus from Hongkong should people start to envisage a radical change in their lifestyle. A flow of some funds and people from the colony as 1997 approaches would seem inevitable, but Britain as well as Hongkong itself will want to keep this to a minimum.

The colony's population has grown from a mere 400,000 after the Second World War to its present huge total. But only 20,000 - most of them British expatriates - have United Kingdom passports and a right of abode in this country.

A further 2.5 millions, nearly half the population, have British Dependent Territory Citizen passports while the rest are either too poor to travel or have not yet lived there the necessary seven years to become Hongkong "belongers" and so qualify for the full passport. These relative newcomers to the colony can travel abroad on a certificate of identity.

But none of these has the automatic right to settle in Britain, a right which was lost about 20 years ago and which has been therefore unaffected by the recent British Nationality Act.

Hongkong sources deny that there has been any dramatic outflow of money from the colony as people prepare for the worst - although there has undoubtedly been some movement of funds.

On the other hand, the Hongkong authorities are claiming 180 overseas companies opening in the colony in the first nine months of this year.

Hongkong's population is already - and not surprisingly - 98 per cent Chinese. But one result of a 1997 takeover must be that the proportion will grow even higher as the first to leave will no doubt include the two per cent "others".

Uganda troops harass refugees in Sudan

By Richard Dowden

Ugandan refugees in southern Sudan are being harassed by Ugandan soldiers crossing the border and may face growing hostility from the Sudanese themselves, according to refugee aid workers.

A confidential report from the workers says that Sudan is under increasing pressure from the Uganda Government to force refugees out of the border area.

The Sudanese Army, facing a renewed threat from the southern secessionist movement, Anyanya II, can offer little protection.

There are more than 350,000 refugees from Uganda living in southern Sudan, about 95,000 refugees from Uganda living in southern Sudan, about 95,000 of them in UN camps on the west bank of the Nile. They are said to be afraid of coming to the camps because of the

irregular food supply and fear of being forcibly repatriated.

A UN worker said guerrilla bands were carrying out sporadic raids on Uganda Army posts, but he did not know which movement they represented. In retaliation, Ugandan troops have been crossing the border and attacking refugees.

The Uganda Government claims it operates a policy of "reconciliation and not revenge" towards the refugees. But one aid worker said: "Obote's troops seem to regard all refugees as enemies who return, as guerrillas. Whenever there is any fighting near the border, there is a wave of atrocities all the way back to Arua."

Conditions in the settlements are described as hazardous. There is little medical help and no secondary schooling.

ETA blamed for murder of Spanish officer

From Harry Debelius

Madrid

Left-wing terrorists have murdered a Spanish Navy lieutenant in the northern fishing town of Bermeo, according to reports published here yesterday.

The 32-year-old officer, father of six children, had been assigned to his post at the Bermeo port authority only four months earlier.

Police blamed the Basque secessionist organisation ETA and said the fatal shooting occurred as the lieutenant was walking from his office to his flat on Saturday night.

The killing was a continuation of the escalation of violence by the ETA in the face of tougher anti-terrorist measures announced by the Government early this month. Last Wednesday the ETA killed a barman in Bilbao and last Monday the same organization kidnapped a businessman near San Sebastian.

British TV spy series angers Moscow

Moscow (AP) - Izvestia

yesterday accused British television of glorifying a founding father of international terrorism with a film about the spy, Sidney Reilly, who operated in Russia after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

In a commentary entitled *Spy brought out of Oblivion*, *Izvestia* said Reilly had devoted his life after 1917 to attempts to destroy Soviet power.

After the revolution, it said, "Britain's intelligence service charged its chief expert on Russia with the task, formulated by Winston Churchill, of strangling Bolshevism in its cradle."

In 1918, Sidney Reilly... was shuttling between Petrograd and Moscow, mustering forces in the underground to stage a counter-revolutionary coup. "The makers of the film prefer not to mention these episodes

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SPECTRUM

Edward Mortimer meets Amos Oz, the Jewish writer who refuses to be history's eternal pioneer

Israel is evolving into "a mad and slightly evil country. Perhaps this is the conclusion we can derive from Amos Oz's trips around Israel and the West Bank and the conversations he had there, in October and November 1982..." That was how the *Jerusalem Post's* Benny Morris began his review of the Hebrew edition of *In the land of Israel*, the book from which the extracts below are taken. Accordingly, when I went to see Oz at his home, Kibbutz Hulda (south of the main Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway), I started by asking how he felt about washing this sort of dirty linen in the columns of *The Times*.

He replied that he did not see the book as "dirty linen" at all. "What I aim to do, and believe I have done, is to produce a polyphonic record of present-time Israel, or at least some segments of it, with all its sound and fury and pain. There is nothing of 'dirty linen' in the fact that several Israelis are tormented by the present reality, or by the traumatic past. The right way to read this collection is to treat it as a painful human comedy, a tale about a very troubled family, in which every member of the family - or almost every one - has an instant formula for instant salvation and is out to save everyone else's soul."

At the age of 44, Amos Oz is Israel's most famous living writer. Within

Israel, he has become something of a guru for the liberal Zionist intelligentsia. Born in Jerusalem of Russian-Polish parents, a kibbutznik from the age of 15, writing in Hebrew and finding his themes mainly within contemporary Israeli society, bitterly critical of government policies yet unflinchingly loyal to the state and to the central Zionist concept, he represents that synthesis between liberal European culture and the land of Israel which is one version of the Zionist ideal.

Those who cling to that ideal value him especially because he represents it so well, and so combatively, at a time when it is under attack from another, less liberal Zionism which is also a synthesis, woven of at least three strands: the intransigent Jewish nationalism of the heirs of Jabotinsky, the fanaticism of an exclusivist religious tradition suddenly presented with the opportunity to translate its political and geographical metaphors into hard fact; and the resentment felt by Jews of Afro-Asian origin at the condescension with which Israel's liberal European establishment has treated them and their culture.

All three strands of this anti-liberal Zionism are exposed in this book. Yet he disclaims having written it as an exposé. He presents it more as a work of education, and in the first instance



Amos Oz "read this collection as a painful human comedy"

of self-education: "Never before had I made an attempt to listen carefully and sympathetically to my worst political opponents, from the PLO to Gush Emunim. This time I made a deliberate effort to give them not only a fair hearing but even a convincing voice: I lent my own voice to those people, who are sometimes not very articulate in explaining themselves to the outside world. In a sense it was a labour of love."

So is he happy with the Israel he has discovered? No. "I'm not at all happy with anything in Israel." But, "I suppose down below I'm very proud of the fact that, despite the long Jewish tragedy and the relatively short Israeli tragedy, this country is still one of the most open, argumentative, soul-searching societies in the world. A bus-queue or a grocery in Israel is a mini-parliament where total strangers discuss vehemently not only politics, but ideology, religion, social justice, sex, theology - and I like it this way in spite of the fact that it hurts."

Is this kind of open, argumentative society not threatened by violence when, as happened in February this year, a person taking part in a peaceful demonstration can be killed with a hand-grenade? Yes, he says. "It is a direct threat to the basic, pluralistic spirit of Israeli society. But still... in one hundred years of Zionism less than fifty Jews were killed by other Jews for political or ideological reasons. For a much lesser cause than the one which divides the Israelis now, other peoples would probably be at each other's throats quite literally, not metaphorically. What we Israelis do is give each other ulcers - or a heart attack."

Oz says he finds it difficult to prevent "pro-peace intellectuals in the West" from hugging me for the wrong reasons. He describes himself as a

Peace Now activist, but stresses that "Peace Now has never been a replica of the American anti-war movement". "No one within the Peace Now movement maintains that the enemy is unreal, that we fundamentally fight the Arabs for the wrong reasons."

He is not, he says, "in love with nation states". Indeed "as a Jew, having a nation-state of my own makes me sometimes feel like an old man in a kindergarten. We Jews have been through that game thousands of years ago, and in a way we have performed for nearly two thousand years what I regard as the ideal model of the existence of a civilization without the murderous toys of nationhood, except that it was a one-man-show or a one-person show. Some of the audience applauded, some other part of the audience persecuted the performer, and some slaughtered him."

"I can't afford it. I'd be delighted to be the tenth one in the world or the fifth one in the neighbourhood, to join a post-nationalistic world. But for the life of me I'm not going to be the eternal pioneer of the next phase in human history. As long as everyone else has glass in their windows and locks on their doors, and tanks and aeroplanes, I'm going to play the bloody game according to its bloody rules whether I like it or not. That's really my Zionism from A to Z."

moreover...
Miles Kington

A Ross by any other name

Poor old Albert. Now that he has at last fought free of Victoria's spook stories and been given an exhibition of his own, it's being advertised entirely in terms of his wife. "Victoria and Albert," says the ads, with "Victoria and" lightly rubbed out. "I hope she is amused," says the haggard over his head. "I don't know about Victoria," but "I feel... profoundly depressed at this display of sexism."

Or, patriotism; rather, patriotism is prejudice shown against one member of a duo, whereby all the attention goes to the other partner. Take Gilbert and Ellice, for instance. Ellice, the talented composer who occasionally stepped in when Sullivan was having a furious row with Gilbert, is now totally forgotten, although I believe, the Gilbert and Ellice operetta *Happy Easter Island* is sometimes revived by amateurs. Or St. Pierre et Miquelon - Saint Peter we all know about but Miquelon, the locksmith of the Gates of Heaven, is commemorated only in the name of some French islands. And take Martini and Rossi.

But here we come across one of the great mysteries of history, the forgotten story of Albert Ross, who partnered more people than anyone in history and always ended up as the partner whom no one remembers. He was born in 1879 in Auchterlony, in Scotland, and grew up with the singular ambition of being a straight man in a music hall duo. Most comics craved to be the funny one, but he always reckoned that the nervous tension and acrobatics involved in comedy would wear a man out, and it was a straight man that he always auditioned.

In his autobiography, he relates how his first auditions were disastrous - he tried to perform solo as a straight man, the result being less than humorous - but that he soon met up with and partnered Doug Cromarty. Doug was a rollicking dialect comedian who specialised in arriving on stage drunk and performing all the better for it. Ross and Cromarty became well-known at the turn of the century in the Scottish provinces, but the taste in those days was for fake Scotsmen like Harry Lauder, and the act never made it to London.

Ross teamed up briefly in Wales with a comic called Harry Wye, but Ross 'n' Wye never caught on beyond lending their name to a town, and Ross went abroad to find his fortune, to Germany and then to Italy. He claims that in Germany he formed half of a team known as Ross and Kavalier, later turned into a musical by Strauss, but historians privately doubt this. What is beyond doubt is that he teamed up with Signor Martini in Italy as a business partner. Martini had a dry vermouth which he claimed as better than anyone else's but wouldn't sell better. Rossi (as he was known to the Italians) had the simple solution. "Put an olive in it," he said.

It worked, and they made a fortune. Ross stayed with the firm for 10 years, till they got tired of this morose Scotsman standing around telling them to put an olive in it, and he moved on to Ireland, where he teamed up with Somerville and produced the leisurely tales of the Irish R.M. which Channel 4 were later to immortalize, or at least to televise.

By this time he had acquired a certain reputation as the forgettable half of partnerships (who has ever heard a request for a dry Rossi, or Rossi Bianco?) and it is no coincidence that when Lawrence of Arabia was looking for an anonymous name to enter the desert with, he chose Ross.

He spent his declining years working on his autobiography, trying to analyse the psychological factors which had made him always the lesser half of everything or, in the title of the work, *The Ross Dependency*. It came as little surprise to him to find later that this was already the name of part of the Antarctic. His whole life had been spent like that. He died of a heart attack when he bought James Thurber's book, *The Years with Ross* and found it wasn't about him.

Voices from the land of Israel

'I don't believe there will be peace until the Arabs realize that we did them a favour by letting them stay alive at all'

WITH ORIENTAL
JEW IN
BET SHEMESH

"I'll tell you what shame is: They gave us houses; they gave us the dirty work; they gave us education; and they took away our self-respect. What did they bring my parents to Israel for? I'll tell you what for. But you sure won't write this. You'll think it's just provocation. But I'll tell you what for. I'll tell you what for. You didn't have Arabs then so you needed our parents to do your cleaning and be your servants and your labourers. And policemen too. You brought our parents to be your Arabs."

"But now I'm a supervisor. And he's a contractor, self-employed. And that guy there has a transport business. Self-employed, too. If they give back the territories, the Arabs will stop coming to work and then there you'll put us back into the dead-end jobs, like before. If for no other reason, we won't let you give back those territories. And that's besides the rights we have from the Bible, and besides security. Look at my daughter: she works in a bank now and every evening an Arab comes to clean the building. All you want is to dump her from the bank on to some textile machine, or have her wash the floors instead of the Arab. Like my mother used to clean for you. That's why we hate you here. As long as Begin's in power, my daughter's secure in the bank. If you guys come back, you'll bring her down first thing."

WITH SETTLERS
AT TEKOA
(WEST BANK)

Harriet (American immigrant): "In general, I don't believe there'll be peace. The Gentiles' hatred of

Israel is an eternal thing. There's never been peace between us and them, only when they beat us completely or when we'll beat them completely. Maybe only if they let somebody like Arik Sharon wipe out as many of them as possible, and those countries of theirs, until the Arabs realize that we did them a favour by letting them stay alive at all."

"This is a religious war! A holy war! For them and for us! A war against all of Islam. And against the goyim."

Menachem (her husband, born in Jerusalem): "I'm much more extreme than Harriet, but actually I see a good possibility of living with the Arabs in friendship. When? When they realize they're here out of mercy and not by right. I talk Arabic real well; I have a lot of Arab acquaintances - I worked with them. My family is from Aden. We know that the Arab is a good-hearted, obedient creature if only nobody would incite him or put ideas into his head. The Arab's not a warmonger. He just has to know, very clearly, what his place is."

Danny (Menachem's apprentice, born in Galilee to parents from Kurdistan): "Look how empty it is here. There's plenty of room."

AN OLD ARAB
IN RAMALLAH
(WEST BANK)

Oz: What, in your opinion, should be done with the Arab inhabitants? Danny: That's a hard question. I know what not to do: not to kill, not to throw them out, not to oppress. But what should be done, I don't know yet. But I keep thinking about it. A lot.

Oz: Do they have rights? Danny: You can't say they don't: they're human beings. "You took everything from us. How can you sleep at night? Don't you fear God? You took everything! But we were also wrong. Guilty. You know in the beginning our people would kill Jews for nothing. For no reason! Now we've got our

The Land doesn't belong to the Jews or to the Arabs
The Land is God's
Whoever finds favour in his eyes will receive His Land



punishment. You've been punished by God, too. Write in the Israeli newspapers, write: what was is over. Finished. Everyone wants to live on the land and the property. All the Jews and Arabs want to live. Write that land doesn't belong to the Jews or to the Arabs. The land is God's. Whoever finds favour in his eyes will receive His Land. God alone decides. And whoever does evil will pay the price: God will pass over him and forget him."

Z - "A MAN WITH A CERTAIN REPUTATION"

"I want you to know that I personally have absolutely no desire, and no reason either, to be better than Khomenei or Brezhnev or Gaddafi or Assad or Mrs Thatcher, or Harry Truman who killed half a million Japs with two sweet bombs. Smarter than them, yes! I want to be quicker, more clever, more efficient than them, but under no circumstances do I have any ambition whatsoever to be more pretentious and moral than them... Let us realize that we're a wild country, deadly and dangerous to the whole neighbourhood, awful, crazy, capable of suddenly going nuts because they murdered one of our kids - even one! - and running wild and burning all the oil fields in the Middle East... Let them know in Washington, in Moscow, in Damascus and China that if they shoot one of our ambassadors, or even a consul, or even the attaché in charge of stamp collecting, we're capable of starting, suddenly just for the hell of it, before breakfast, World War Three."

GUSH EMUNIM*
LEADERS AT
OFRA (WEST BANK)

Pinchas Wallerstein: "In May, 1975, we were the only Jewish settlement in all of Samaria. And slowly but surely all kinds of right-thinking people began to find their way to us - one person brought us a gift of cinder blocks; another brought cement; one guy brought toilet bowls. And bear in mind that all of this happened while Labour was in power. These people, the leaders of Labour, had, in spite of it all, a certain awe of latter day pioneers like ourselves. It's in their blood. They would never have evacuated and destroyed Yamit like that! Begin's already a different story altogether. He was the one who broke the Zionist taboo against uprooting a Jewish settlement." (Yamit was an Israeli town in Sinai, evacuated in Spring, 1982 under the terms of the peace treaty with Egypt.)

Yisrael Harel: "I think that the positions of Gush Emunim really do constitute an irritating and alarming threat to the legitimacy of secular, hedonistic 'Israelhood'. The existence of Gush Emunim disturbs your experience of modern Western existence, including permissiveness and pacifism and internationalism; it interferes with your attempt to 'adjust' our society to fashionable

western values. You have been cornered by a multi-faceted threat: first of all in terms of Zionist fulfilment you are no longer the pioneers. Second, you've been tangled up in a war you don't really believe in. Third, what you view as injustice is being done to the Arabs in your name."

Sarah Harel (on the Sabra-Chatila massacre): "I may also have been overwhelmed by the thought that if the Arabs are capable of doing something like that to other Arabs, what awaits us if we are trapped in a moment of weakness? And perhaps I feel a bit desolate that, after all, we were there, in the neighbourhood, and maybe we could have - or couldn't we? - done something to stop it... And afterwards the shocking reaction in the Israeli street: the understandable pain that ran amok, turned into a festival of self-hatred, a public circus for the blood of the government ministers and army commanders... what a moral massacre they started against ourselves! Awful!"

Uri Elitzur (lecturer in mathematics and one of the leaders of the violent resistance against the evacuation of Yamit): "Western culture is all alien to the spirit of Judaism, and the current trust with western culture is a passing episode in our history, like earlier romances with foreign cultures." (Uri has no hesitation about revealing to Oz that after an incident when stones were thrown at cars belonging to Ofra's residents, he and his friends stormed into Ramallah to shatter Arab car windows.) "Yes, we took the law into our own hands. And believe me, the Arabs understood it perfectly. They respect us a lot more than they respect Jews like you."

WITH VETERAN
JEWISH FARMERS
AT BAT SHLOMO

Zvi Bachur: "I'm 78 years old and every

blessed be He, create them? Why was Ishaal the guy called Ishaal, which means 'he shall hear the Lord'. Do you know? No? I'll tell you. He was called Ishaal so that he would hear what Isaac ordered him to do. And why was Isaac the Jew called Isaac. 'He shall laugh'. So that he would laugh at the sight of this, because the Labour of righteous men is done by others."

And do they celebrate Israel Independence Day here? My partner in conversation smiles sadly and explains gently, as if to a deathly ill person: "And what is to celebrate about this? Nu, has the Messiah come? The End of Days? The state you made for yourselves (his voice drips almost to a whisper) - just between the two of us - why even you're already sick of it. Whoever doesn't leave it is ashamed of it, and whoever doesn't leave and is not ashamed of it, steals from it shamelessly..."

The devil inspired me to ask him what he thought of Gush Emunim. He answered me contentedly. "Then, they're all sheigizim. Impudent. Terrible. Real pagans. Idolaters. Acting as if they've got the Messiah in their back pocket, and turning the goyim against us. And for what? For rocks and trees..."

WITH AN ORTHODOX
RELIGIOUS TEACHER
IN JERUSALEM

Do they teach vocational subjects here? The instructors point to the Arabs repairing the roof under the auspices of Mayor Teddy Kollek and answers with a question: "And for what purpose did the Lord,

morning at four or five, I go out to work the land. I want you to know, at five o'clock in the morning this is already an Arab country. To the bread and loaves of this country, the Arabs are up and working and the Jews are still fast asleep."

His wife, Sarah: "Little 14 year old shikars from the Arab village work in our fields, and Jewish boys are either in the army in Lebanon, or in the secret service, or fighting around the world, or in the stock market, or the devil-knows-where, or just hanging around all day, their heads full of soul-searching."

Zvi: "And right now the Arabs are raising a new generation, just the opposite of what used to be, educated, quiet, serious, even idealistic. There's a lot of them going back to their religion. Dreaming all the day long about a homeland. There's even some willing to sacrifice themselves. And us? Something's gone wrong - very wrong."

WITH AN OLD
ROMANIAN
IMMIGRANT, ASHDOD

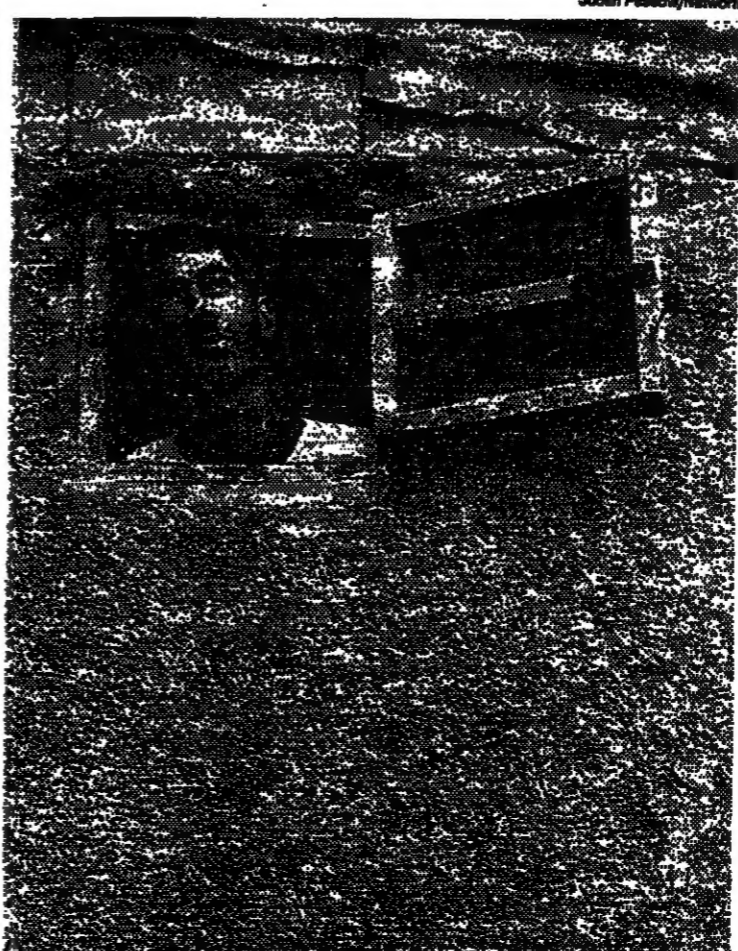
"I'll tell you what I believe, mister. Listen, everyone is good. Begin is good. Peres is good. Rabin is good. Of course his honor the president is good. And David Levy, too. Everybody's a hero. From all the communities. Everybody wants to be good. Everybody gives from his life to the country. They should get respect for that! This argument what we got - is nothing; they have such in the best families. They argue? So they make up. Me, I'm for everybody. I already seen with my own eyes what the goyim got and what we got. The state of Israel - a very nice thing!"

Oz's conclusion: Perhaps we must limit ourselves and forgo the rainbow of messianic dreams, whether they be called "the resurrection of the Kingdom of David and Solomon" or "the building of a model society, a Light unto the Nations," "fulfillment of the vision of the Prophets" or "to become the heart of the world". Perhaps we should take smaller bites...

In the Land of Israel by Amos Oz is published by Chatto and Windus at £8.95 (hardback) and by Flamingo (paperback) at £2.95.

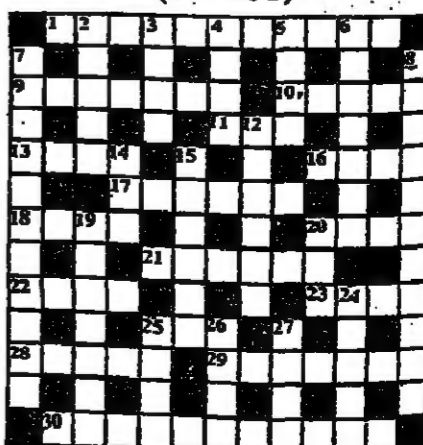
"Gush Emunim - Block of the Faithful - the spiritual-political movement seeking to build Jewish settlements throughout the Israeli-occupied territories."

Jewish Presence/Network



Palestinian resident of the Balata refugee camp in Nablus, on the West Bank during a dawn-to-dusk curfew.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 201)



- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Stone coffin (11) | 2 Impure quarters (5) |
| 3 Spanish prince (7) | 3 Transfer (4) |
| 4 Moment (5) | 4 Homework (4) |
| 5 Palestine homeland | 5 Car (4) |
| 6 group (11, 1) | 6 Public service (7) |
| 13 Sway (4) | 7 Fear of open spaces (11) |
| 14 Rent (4) | 8 Respectful (11) |
| 17 Exhilarated (6) | 12 Room for improvement (6) |
| 18 Larboard (4) | 14 Permit (3) |
| 20 Funeral pile (4) | 15 Immature (6) |
| 21 Split (6) | 16 Revive (7) |
| 22 Stupid people (4) | 17 Welsh valley (3) |
| 23 Nothing (4) | 20 Perfect (5) |
| 25 Japanese flower art | 24 Cerebrates (5) |
| 29 Japanese flower art | 25 Soft lump (4) |
| 30 Close end to race (5, 6) | 26 Take offence (4) |
| | 27 Gaseous element (4) |

Solution to Saturday's prize crossword will appear on Saturday. Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise



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MODERN TIMES

The Great Taste Test



A sideways look at the British way of life

Stephen Bayley is director of the Conran Foundation's Boilerhouse Project at the Victoria & Albert Museum. As such he has arranged the current exhibition devoted to taste, in which artefacts are placed upon pedestals or on dustbins to indicate the judgments that people have passed upon them. This deliciously provocative ap-

proach smacks, of course, of the sort of thing that gets good taste a bad name.

De gustibus non est disputandum. One man's meat has always been another man's poison. Bayley having thrust himself among the tastemakers, by making a show of other people's value judgments, becomes himself a touchstone for

taste. Practical or preposterous? Robin Young visited him both at work and at home to collect evidence.

Then Sir Roy Strong, the Director of the Victoria & Albert Museum, was asked to consider the taste displayed by Bayley's possessions and give his verdict: is he a man of good taste or bad?

Suresh Karadi



Exhibit A: Bayley at work

To get to the Boilerhouse before the V & A opens one must use the tradesman's entrance. Bayley, built more like a rugged player than an aesthete but with a coral red woollen scarf twisted tastefully about his shoulders, conducts the way through a clutter of scaffolding and past piles of disjunctive drapings of doubtful purpose. "This was once a toilet bunker," he announces proudly, as he throws open the blank door to a clinically clean office that is all white, black and nunnish grey.

"Even the quest for neutrality is a profound expression of personal preference," he murmurs, in quiet satisfaction at the effect.

He makes his coffee, black for "purity of vision", and drinks

from an Apilco cup and saucer - not in the familiar bottle-green and gold favoured by French brasseries, but white lined with silver grey.

The principal furniture is a black Conran table, surrounded by black and chrome Mies van der Rohe chairs. "They are awful as sitting machines. Tom Wolfe says they're guaranteed to catapult your guests face first into the lobster bisque. Anyway, meetings tend to be short."

Behind his functional white desk he has compromised with a more conventional office chair - a Klöber Sitzkomfort on wheels. Down shelving on the side wall are ranged magazines of the technology and design business - "my daily reading" - but among the vivid display are *Forbes*, *New York Atlantic* and *French Vogue*.

clean, calm and unassertive environment we found it was like working in a swimming pool or speaking on a transatlantic telephone line. We needed an anechoic system, and this carpet is it. We found it in a junk shop. It is the sort of thing that Herbert Read, Niklaus Pevsner and John Betjeman condemned as suburban awful good taste. I think it is rather subtle."

Bayley sits comfortably in his Klöber contemplating the scene. "My clothes," he says smoothly, "were of course chosen in consciousness that you were coming. They are all from Paul Smith in Covent Garden. They are small and subtle points in the cut and design which please me - extra darts in the trousers, the lie of the reverse, the

unexpected angle of the button-hole. Paul tells me it is quite impossible to sell such understatement outside London. People in the North, where we both come from, want something far more strident if they are going to spend money on clothes."

On the way out we glance at the visitors' book to the exhibition. Bayley is delighted with it. "We are going to collect and print the entries," he says.

The first I glimpse reads: "Rubbish." The next: "Bourgeois." "There will always be idiot contributions," Bayley says, "but many are really thoughtful." I try again: "Good taste," the entry reads, "is not having the audacity to inflict your opinion on other people."

Bayley lives in Vauxhall, in a street which my colleague Bryan Appleyard defines as "the mystical home of gentrification". He arrives for our appointment in his white Volkswagen Sirocco. Its sombre interior complements the Prince of Wales check of his suit. "I would like a Ferrari," he says, "but I would have to save up for a long time. I have a strong Calvinistic streak. I would rather do without something than have anything I do not like. I am the opposite of a collector. I am a great thrower-away. Having brought the contents of two flats to this house, my wife and I have just finished throwing it all out to create a stripped environment. I have an obsession about clutter."

Exhibit B: Bayley at home

The stripped environment is most nakedly exposed in the basement, a big bare room with the classic Habitat dining furniture grouped at the far end - Marcel Breuer dining chairs and a black Italian table. A Japanese-influenced lamp by Ingo Maurer came from a Conran shop sale, but nest shelving below the stairs for wine bottles (mostly Italian from The Winery) was custom-built by a student from the London College of Furniture ("took an age").

Cookery books shelved alongside an incipient collection of coffee making machines above the wine (Elizabeth David, and cordon bleu but also *The Underground Gourmet* by Milton Glasser, the graphic designer responsible for the "I

love New York" heart) pave the way to the kitchen, tizzy pine units at which Bayley winces. "It was all here when we bought. It would be wanton to rip it out," he says, turning his back and heading upstairs.

His study has Finnish beech furniture and an arbitrary display of choice objects, prize among which is the filler cap from an F4 Phantom jet - "a wonderfully made thing". There are also his old typewriters, the upright Remington circa 1935 on which he wrote his first book, the Olivetti Lexikon 83DL on which he did his second, and the Olivetti Dora 12 designed by Sottsass in 1964. There is another Tizio lamp and a Danish telephone which will not connect to the British system. Sadly it is also not grey.

I bang my head sharply on an overhanging lamp (glass flanges and coloured centrepiece designed by Paul Henningsen in 1928. "It would be better over a dining table", Bayley apologises, "but it does give a beautifully muted light").

At 32, Bayley has only just purchased his first sofa. It is Conran, square-built salmon pink with elegant grey piping, and about the size of an ocean liner. It is matched, Bayley points out, by the pink marble hearthstone he had found for the room. Otherwise there is only space for bookshelves, a Sony television on a wall bracket, a lamp suspended from a sweeping arc of chrome, and a

couple of shining chrome stools like tractor seats.

Like the tall lamp in the adjoining room which points a car headlamp at the ceiling, the stools, Bayley says, were designed by Achille Castiglione long before hi-tech became fashionable. Otherwise the second room has only an over-stored oil painting (*Death of St Francis*) of the Spanish school, and a set of folding canvas chairs, being reconverted in salmon.

In the bedroom (Conran duvet covers) a wall display of handmirrors ("an obsession of my wife's") is complemented by Bayley's own wing collars and dress ties. On another wall is a selection of floppy hats. "My wife, Flo, has gone out wearing one," Bayley observes, indicating an empty pin.

The bathroom (teak gunwales round the tub) Bayley attributes to the architect, Peter Wadley, but the use of offcuts of wood to make a pillar for a concealed light he calls "ingenious" and he moves the Descamps towels to show off a custom-made heated towel rail shaped like a double S-bend.

Throughout the tour, Bayley is only discomfited in the kitchen. He must have been aching, I realize now, for someone to come and write about his taste. There is no doubt that he, at least, loves it.

The exhibition, *Taste, is at the Boilerhouse until November 24.*

Robin Young

Bayley's bazaar



Watch: Rolex Oyster Perpetual ("only my stopwatch is quartz")

Cologne: Vetvert by Givenchy

Dictaphone: Sony TC100

Loafer shoes: Bass Weejuns

Hairdressing: Leonardo in Via Dante, Milan ("but usually it is more convenient to go to Patsy at Orlon's ladies' hairdressing, Knightsbridge")

Favourite toy: Falcon Safety Products' Dust Off canister of compressed air for blasting dust away. I love the aerospace details of it."

Lighting: A transformer in the base turns 240 volts to only six volts carried through the arms, so there are no wires. You will find one of these in almost every architect's office in the world."

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Sir Roy's verdict: a waxwork in his own museum

Brave are the hearts and eyes and minds that pronounce on taste. They climb of their own volition beneath the microscope lens and the results are invariably fatal.

Brave Mr Bayley of the red-rimmed spectacles (or at least on some days). May your hair go silver-grey soon to match your decor and thus extend your "quest for neutrality" to yourself. Beware, oh beware where your prognostications on taste have led you. You could be constructing sets for an updated version of Jacques Tati as *M. Hulot in Mon Oncle*.

I am so glad to read that you have a sofa, even if it does look like an ocean liner. Perhaps it means that, one day, the words comfort and domesticity will enter your vocabulary and life. Perhaps ornament, pattern and decoration, in the form of textiles, wallpapers, paint and glaze will also give you delight as they have to the greatest designers and artists over the centuries. Perhaps plants and flowers and living things (you know, like cats and dogs) will give you joy and rise above being merely tasteful props.



Sir Roy Strong: "prefer style"

Remember you are not an exhibit, even though your office is a lit-up showcase in which you sit, Tussaud-like, but a human being with passions and feelings and foibles whose expression explodes in clutter, the true mirrors of humanity and sentiment.

All that spotless virgin white makes me worry about the cleaning lady and

the dropped cap of coffee. It also makes me muse on the practicalities in terms of maintenance, wear and function. Here are chairs for a meeting which are "awful sitting machines"; here are magazines arranged as exhibits in a pattern and not as reading matter; here is a desk which only looks good when it is empty.

That poor 1930s carpet on the floor looks so unhappy I sometimes wish to rush off with it and lay it in some between-the-wars semi with three-piece suite and radio and make it feel joyful again beneath happy family feet and not the designer's heel.

To misquote Charlotte Corday: "Taste, what crimes are committed in thy name". I actually prefer the word style to taste. At its best it is unaffected and personal, it betrays flair, originality, a confidence in the expression of choice in appearance and environment that is beguiling, eye-catching, enthralling and instantly recognizable.

Cheer up Mr Bayley. In an odd sort of way you have this.

Roy Strong

Penny Perrick

Compact is out of puff

There are plans to bring back *Compact*. For those of you who are, insouciantly, too young to know what I'm talking about, *Compact* was a BBC soap opera about a women's magazine. It began in 1962 and was meant to run and run just like ITV's *Crossroads* (the brainchild of *Compact* inventors Hazel Adair and Peter Ling) and *Crossroads* Street. In fact, *Compact* bit the dust long before its stars had time to make a fortune from selling their autobiographies to the Sunday tabloids, but not before it had inspired a whole generation of teenagers to apply for jobs on magazines.

One of those teenagers was me. I left school the minute it was legally possible to do so and headed straight for *Vogue* magazine in the hope of entering a *Compact*-like world of romance, glamour and the odd bit of creative writing. What I found was an all-pervading smell of Cow gum, and a lot

of hopeful young women trying to survive on a small salary in an atmosphere almost as exclusively female as the girls' grammar school which I had just left.

Compact was jam-packed with squeaky-clean young men who alternatively dazzled or depressed female members of the cast according to what was needed to provide a suitably cliffhanging end to an episode. Such men do not exist on real magazines, at least not within the hopping distance of the departments where women work. Men like a bit of career structure, not to mention a bit of money, so they get fed into the system as accountants and trainee advertising representatives and come out the other end, glossily pin-striped with titles like Group Publisher or Managing Director (Sales).

Women seldom make it to the executive floor. They are supposed to count themselves lucky if they progress from secretary to fashion editor, even though the salary, should they do so, is much the same and their office just as shabby. The recompense for a meagre wage is, supposedly, being exposed to so much excitement, an excitement which I'm not sure is entirely beneficial.

I have seen home editors of magazines spend days interviewing some rich and celebrated lady about her Chelsea penthouse, with the silk walls and trompe d'oeil murals,

before taking the tube back to their own rented flats in Kilburn. I have seen junior fashion assistants retrieve clothes from models after a day's shooting, send them back to the Bond Street boutique from whence they came, and then go out in search of a cheap pair of Woolworth tights for themselves. You might suppose that these women would become consumed by the politics of envy, but they never are. Some of them stay on the same magazine all their working lives, no doubt always hoping that one day they'll walk into the familiar office to find it turned into something that looks just like the set of *Compact*.

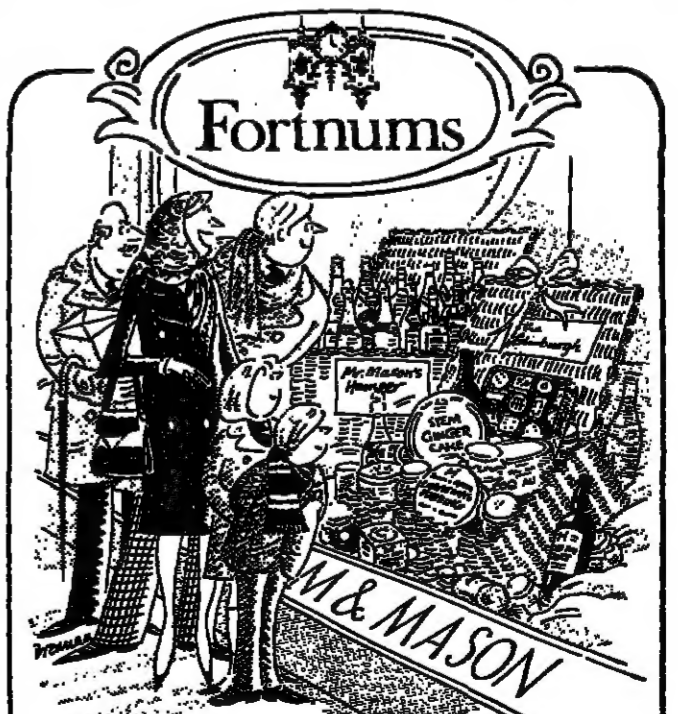
I'm not sure that *Compact*, with its magazine fantasy world, will be able to stage a comeback in its original form, in this more world-weary television age. If it does return, I think it should be in the form referred to by socially realistic television directors as drama-doc. This would present the magazine office with the same cynical accuracy as *Brookside* presents life on a horrible housing estate.

We would see the art editor bursting into tears because the colour proof of the front cover has come back from the printer showing the Princess of Wales with pink hair and orange eyeballs. We would watch the telephoneist begin a long and wearisome love affair with the married production manager

because he's the only man she ever meets from Monday to Friday. The result might be more like *Within These Walls* than the original *Compact*, but it might stop thousands of misguided young women from thinking that working on a magazine is far more thrilling than becoming a chartered accountant.

"What you have to do is beware of lunch", is Tory MP Julian Critchley's advice to newly elected members of the House. Apparently men, especially those men who might conceivably have some influence in the world, are never given lunch - except for nefarious purposes. Once they've accepted a lunch date, they are for ever at the mercy of arms-dealers, drug traffickers and people who wish petrol to retain a high content of lead. Women, it seems, have a much better time of it.

It is the time when young women often receive rehearsals of marriage and older ones get offered jobs. I once shared an office with a woman who every so often would announce she was going out to lunch. Wearing her best clothes, she would sweep out on clouds of perfume and not reappear for hours. When she did, she would immediately open a packet of sandwiches. I don't know what she did during these extended lunch hours, but I'm sure she would have poured scorn on Julian Critchley's warning.



— an occasional commentary on Important Events — Christmas Lights

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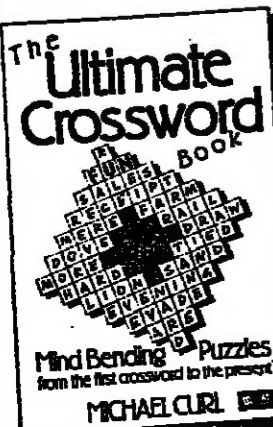
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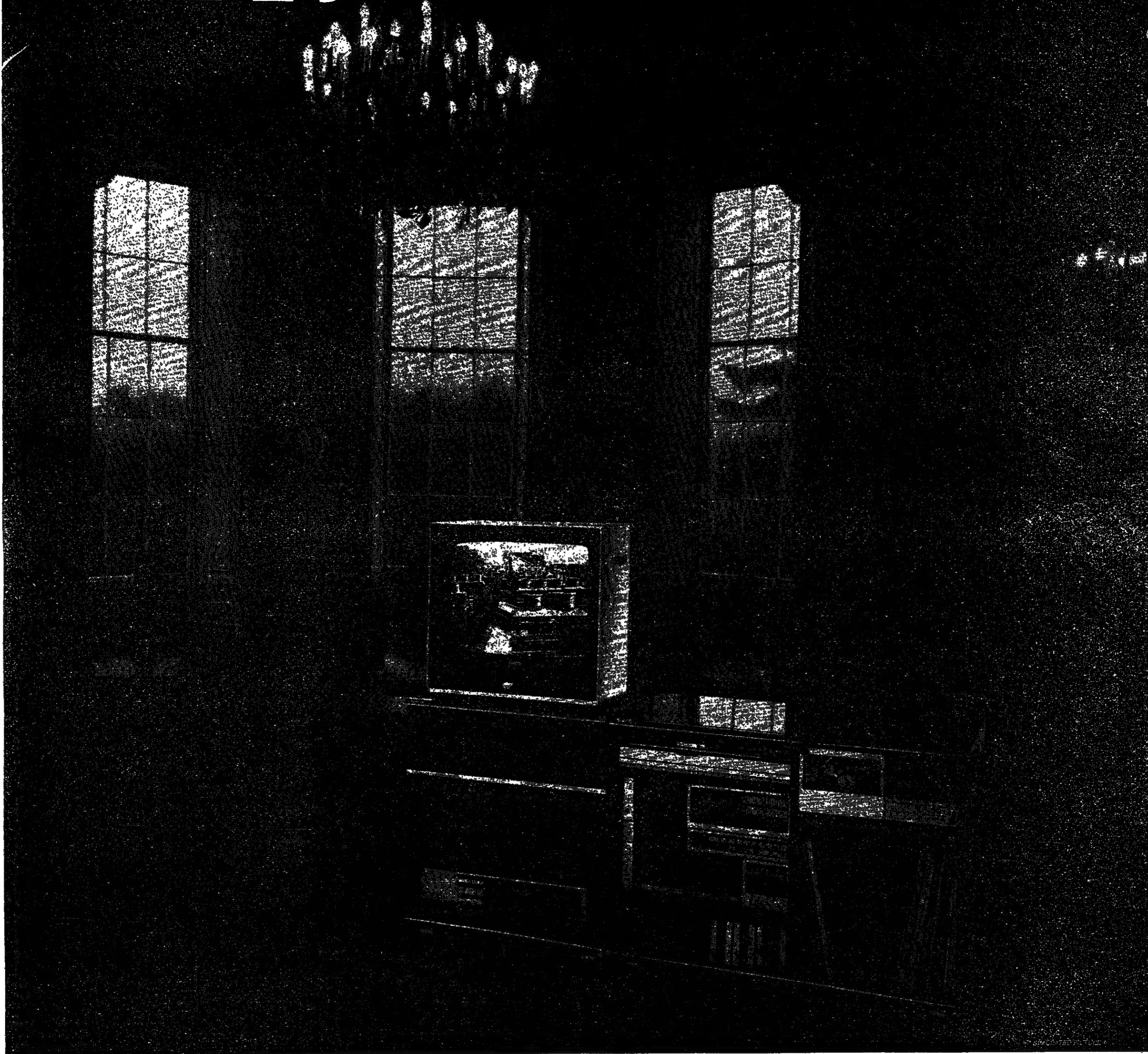
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Why the rich are happy when it rains.



Time was when a drop of rain cast a shadow of gloom on the Heaton-Smythes' social life.

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And though Daphne Heaton-Smythe thinks "Wow" and "Flutter" are two dogs in the local hunt, her husband more sensibly realises the sound performance of Fisher high-fidelity is quite exceptional.

The system has outstanding features like direct-drive turntable, soft touch controls, 3-way speakers, and quartz locked synthesizer. It also boasts a twin deck cassette player with Dolby B and C and

a stereo amplifier with graphic equalizer and an impressive 40 watts RMS.

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You can start with a complete Fisher Hi-Fi system for as little as £299. But considering the Fisher Home Entertainment Centre offers so many components, a price of around £1,800 really isn't out of the question. Particularly, when one thinks of the amount of rain in Britain.

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And he
read
and read
happily
ever
after

You may think I left it a bit late, and had I left it any later I'm not sure I would be here to tell the tale. The fact is, last month I broke the fact 'barrier'.

It wasn't achieved in a trice. Sent round the country (twice) to promote books that I had written, I found that no one could ever think of anything for me to do in Aberdeen in the afternoon. And so I would end up like a tourist in front of Screens 1, 2, and 3 of the Odeon or the ABC, one after the other.

Escapism hit me like the first gin after Lent. Afterwards, on to neon-and-mahogany bars to listen to gloomy stories and to earwig kindly ladies in tarty furs and high heels and tight skirts as they heard tales of woe from weary oilmen and doled out dory comfort.

Then a couple of quick ones in the station (more boozey tales from beached seamen) before putting my feet up in the first-class sleeper, with the baby stereo and brandy and the unfazed Schweppes waiter they thoughtfully dispense. And with my latest discovery: a novel.

I don't mean serious novels (by which I mean old ones) and I don't mean Booker contenders, with the whiff of Gloomshire gunshots hanging around them. I mean novels written by women between 1930 and 1977. That's my meat.

To dispense as best I may with their practical virtues: you can put them in your pocket; they are there when you need them; they run without electricity. The best of them are advised to you by dear friends; become friends seem to be about one's friends.

Their astonishing merit is one which in the past I have laughed at when anyone told me I would find it other than in Trollope, and have only expressed in a funny voice: they "take you out of yourself". If you're going out of your mind, that's what

BARRY FANTONI



'Are you spending all night with that thing, Neville, or are you coming to bed?'

you need most and if nattering about oneself on the media (another funny-voice word) is the most exciting of occupations, it is also pretty discomfulting.

As some sort of journalist, I have spent ten years or so bundling up my prejudices and predilections in that outer coating of data, statistics, and information which alone advertised their charms to editors.

I had become a Gradgrind - the perfect slave of the age of numeracy. I have never taken much pleasure in Dickens, but have to subscribe to the sensible theory that *Hard Times* is his best, and its opening words ("Now, what I want is, Facts... Facts alone are wanted in life. Plant nothing else, and root out everything else") is an accurate baric cry for the modern age.

And so it was to bed - either in that sleeper or at home - and to Barbara Pym or Olivia Manning. Nothing else seems serious enough, or enough of a cop-out.

Take to the boats

Have you heard the one about the tiny barge company (Murrell's) that spent £10,000 in court to ask if they could please take their boat (on which they had spent, and didn't want to waste, £25,000) down to Tilbury, load up, and go back to Sunbury, as generations of boatmen used to do until a decade or so ago?

The National Dock Labour Board (a cosy catch-all of unions, port authorities, and employers which latterly seems to benefit only the first) had said they couldn't. The court said they could. Now, some wildest TGWU members are still saying they can't, and are blacking the firm.

TV and the press love the tale, but have so far missed the sweetest part. The TGWU can't win, and don't seem to know what to do for the best (they certainly didn't protest very loudly at their recalcitrants who wouldn't load the barge).

The trouble is, the barge is manned by TGWU men who, like their employers, would like their union to do something for those who want London's river to work, instead of turning the old blind eye to the inactivities of those who want to make it a lazy backwater.

Richard North

Why taxes must be cut

by Graham Mather

The Government has forgotten, if it ever really knew, why it regards cutting taxes as a high priority: an attack of forgetfulness capable of proving fatal to its entire medium-term financial strategy.

Before 1979, every Conservative knew why tax cuts were important. They were the means towards, and the desirable end of, sound economic policy - incentive to, and reward for, personal endeavour; encouragement of enterprise, thrift and initiative; stimulus to savings and investment and hence growth.

Evidence from other industrial economies showed that tax-cutting did result in higher economic growth, more productive investment, and improved productivity and competitiveness.

Conservatives understood why taxes have not been cut significantly so far. Supply-side policies clearly involved unacceptable risks, as budgetary deficits have demonstrated. Shifting to indirect taxation had worrying short-term inflationary consequences. Setting over-ambitious targets - 25p in the pound income-tax basic rate - could not itself exert sufficient leverage on spending ministers to pull their bids down.

Yet accommodation to these realities has left Treasury ministers unequipped with a convincing rationale of the central role of lower taxation to engender the economic growth which alone can provide for better social provision. They have in consequence lost the debate on levels of public spending; disappointed their business supporters, of whom 78 per cent recently surveyed put cutting taxes as a high priority; and left

themselves with little bargaining power for next year's spending round. They have accepted John Biffen's approach to two years' "consolidation", *faute de mieux*.

Further powerful evidence that tax cuts work has now arrived in a World Bank staff working paper.

Its conclusion is based on the record, between 1970 and 1979, of 20 countries compared against each other and paired into high and low tax regimes. Sometimes the difference of tax revenue as a percentage of gross domestic product was sharp - Japan's 11 per cent against Sweden's 31 per cent; sometimes less so - Cameroon's 15 per cent against Liberia's 21 per cent; Britain (30 per cent) was examined against Spain (19 per cent). The results were consistent.

The average unweighted annual rate of growth of gdp was 7.3 per cent in the low tax group and 1.1 per cent in the high tax group. Every single member of the low tax category, including three in Africa, exceeded the economic growth of the most rapidly expanding economy in the high tax category.

Employment (outside agriculture) in low tax countries rose by an annual average of 5 per cent compared with a 0.1 per cent decline in high tax countries.

Gross domestic investment grew by 8.9 per cent a year in the low tax areas, but saw an annual 0.8 per cent decline in high tax ones. In all but one of the low tax nations examined, "higher rates of economic growth allowed an expansion of the tax base which generated increased revenues which financed more rapid expansion of expenditure on government services such as

defence, health and education", the report states.

Of course, low tax countries tend to be developing from a lower economic base than our own. But the field test identified in the recent admirable lecture by Sir John Hoskyns, Mrs Thatcher's former policy adviser, is inescapable: economies like Britain's with public spending around 45 per cent of gdp must compete against newly industrialized countries at 25-30 per cent with low taxes, basic welfare provision in case of real need only, and unprivileged trades unions. "They have rapidly rising living standards and low unemployment. Democracy costs money and they will soon have more of it than we do", Sir John warned. How could Mrs Thatcher disagree?

If, prompted by the World Bank, she could remember why cutting taxes was so particularly important, not only would the struggle against protectionism and the need to continue to restructure British industry come more clearly into focus in British economic policy. But she could tell Norman Fowler just why it is that the public debate on the size, structure and future of state health and benefit provision needs to include the desirability of tax-cutting to generate growth. And she could tell the Confederation of British Industry, on good authority, that economic growth can be achieved through her present policies.

She could tell the 78 per cent of businessmen who said tax cuts were a high priority that she understands their message.

The author is head of the Institute of Directors' policy unit.

David Hewson questions the attempts to impose impartiality

Balance, TV's eternal victim

Impartiality is television's greatest conundrum; the more words that are written about it, the more impenetrable the subject becomes.

Tomorrow, that veteran foe of America, John Pilger of the *Daily Mirror*, will return to the fray, this time in the cause of Nicaragua. His last programme, *The Truth Game*, brought about an intervention by the Independent Broadcasting Authority, which demanded that its arguments about attitudes to nuclear war should be "balanced" by those of a journalist from the opposing end of the spectrum, Max Hastings.

No such demands were made about tomorrow's programme. Pilger, whose opinions about the IBA are blunt - "its principal purpose is censorship" - believes he is treading on safer ground when making programmes on foreign subjects.

"It was when it was at home and about nuclear war that they intervened. If Max Hastings had made a documentary on nuclear war do you think they would have insisted that John Pilger of the *Daily Mirror* should have been brought in to make a balancing programme?" he said.

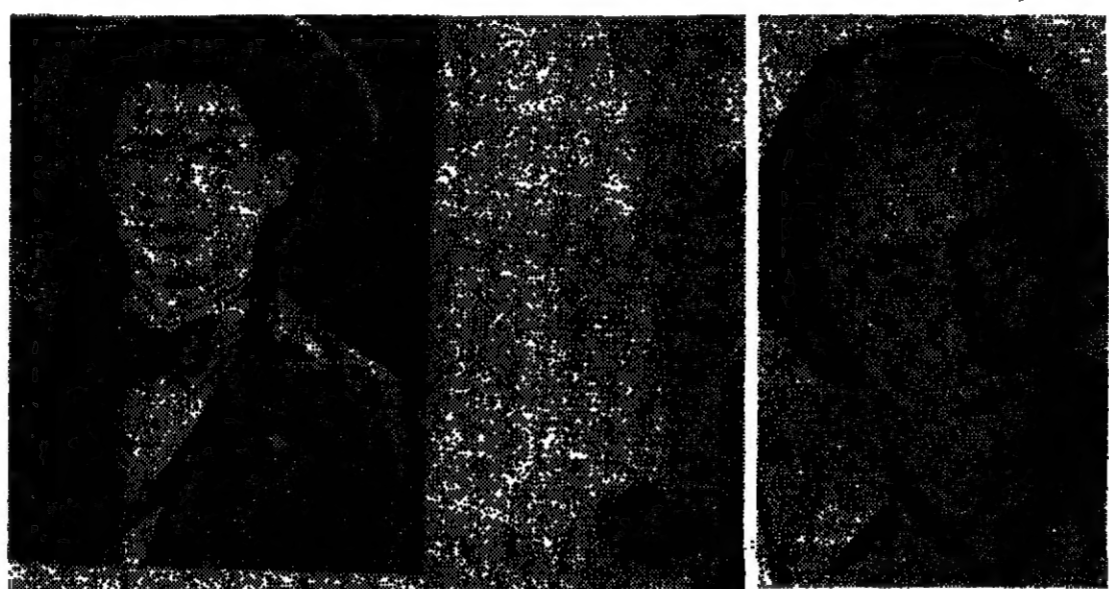
Many people would find this attitude somewhat ungrateful. Since his TV debut in the 1960s, Pilger has regularly produced up to two highly personal documentaries a year. The style, like tomorrow's on Nicaragua, is that of the old campaigning *Mirror*: simplistic, blatantly partial, and skillfully manipulative towards the emotions of its audience.

"How impoverished, how helpless does a country have to be before it is no longer seen as a threat by the United States?" Pilger asks indignantly after recounting the misdeeds of the American-backed Somoza regime, and the utopian ideals of its successors. It is an effective technique, if not a subtle one.

Viewed against the programme on Nicaragua produced by BBC's *Newsnight* this weekend, which was equally as critical of American policy but far less blinkered in its approach to the Sandinistas, Pilger's report looks naive and selective in its content. Whatever viewers think of it tomorrow night, there is no doubt that Pilger's misgivings are indicative of a restive mood among the broadcasting community on the question of impartiality.

The IBA's treatment of *The Truth Game*, and its attack on the series by Ken Loach on trade unionism, which it sent back to its makers with a demand for more balance, have sent the skeleton of censorship rattling in the cupboard of more than one television company.

This prompted David Glenross, the IBA's new director of television, to take the unusual step of setting out the authority's views in an article in *The Guardian* which



Peasant children in a croche under a picture of General Augusto Sandino: a still from the programme on Nicaragua by John Pilger (above right) which ITV screens tomorrow night

elaborated at great length on the status quo.

If Glenross hoped that this would put an end to the argument, he has been disappointed. Few broadcasters would now argue with Pilger's assertion that the current rules on balance are incomprehensible to those meant to apply them. Pilger's programmes traditionally fell into the IBA's "personal view" category, which was introduced as a result of the Annan Report's recommendations for a new form of opinionated ITV documentary.

Those allowed the personal view category in the past have usually been of the left, though Auberon Waugh made a distinctly unsuccessful attempt to redress the balance. Indeed, one important failing of the principle of redressing balance through separate programmes is, as Jeremy Isaacs has noted, the

unwillingness of right-wing programme makers to offer their wares.

If there is a consensus within broadcasting on the subject of impartiality, it is probably that the rules regarding balance should be relaxed for all current affairs programmes, except during general elections, and on the scheduled news broadcasts. A minority of opinion would like to see impartiality rules scrapped altogether, and points to the fact that the televising of Parliament would make nonsense of rules on fair treatment of all the parties concerned.

But there is not good reason to believe that television, as a medium, is chronically unsuited to the notion of impartiality altogether, except in the rigid form of editorial dictat. The idea of balance is one which came from newspapers. The press is

well placed, if it so wishes, to carry contradictory articles, Press Council adjudications, or corrections of its recent contents.

Television is not watched by many people at the same time daily, on the same channel, in the way that they read the same newspaper. The practical problems of balancing, or correcting, a television news item are immense. While the Press Council may be much maligned, at least its adjudications are usually seen by those people who read the original reports which prompted them. The same cannot be said of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission, which is still struggling to establish itself as the television equivalent.

Television current affairs, particularly of the sort epitomized by the Pilger programmes, are more concerned with image than content, and view emotions more favourably than the minutiae of detail. Documentary directors are not strangers to the theatricality of realism: it is no coincidence that one of Pilger's former collaborators went on to direct *Return of the Jedi*, since television, even in current affairs, is never far from show business.

In any case, the most popular, perhaps even the most influential part of television carries no mandated allegiance to editorial balance. No one demands, for instance, that the obvious anti-medical bias of the Channel 4 series *The Nation's Health* should be balanced by an ITV version of the all-caring doctors and nurses of BBC's *Angels* series.

If there can be a free-for-all in the marketplace of television drama, which makes up the most popular part of the broadcasting constituency, can a loosening of the reins on news and current affairs be long delayed?

Argentina's new foreign minister outlines his policies to Douglas Tweedale

The Falklands factor that won't go away

Buenos Aires A political scientist who looks more like a university professor than a polished diplomat, Senor Dante Caputo was virtually unknown in Buenos Aires until he was named by President-elect Raul Alfonsin last week as Argentina's new foreign minister.

Although he will not take office until December 10 - when Sr Alfonsin is sworn in - Sr Caputo and a team of advisers are already formulating policy on such sensitive issues as the future of the Falklands and Argentina's simmering border dispute with Chile.

He said in an interview: "Argentine diplomacy will no longer be the make-up that hides the face of dictatorship. We will use all diplomatic means at our disposal to bring about negotiations to solve the Malvinas dispute. That is a priority."

But, although Sr Alfonsin's government may be more inclined to seek a peaceful solution than its predecessor, Argentina's basic nego-

tiating position will remain the same.

"Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas is not negotiable," Sr Caputo said. "That is the starting point for any negotiation. Regardless of how quickly or slowly talks progress, or what concessions may be made on either side, at no moment will sovereignty be under discussion." Nor, he said, would Sr Alfonsin declare a formal end to hostilities for the time being.

Asked what concessions from Britain might alter this position, Sr Caputo said: "That is something I would rather not go into now." But commercial relations, still under the strain of restrictions imposed during the fighting, would be discussed only as part of the overall problem.

"We are committed to the peaceful settlement of disputes, but that does not mean that we will sit back and accept any attempt to consolidate the colonial situation on the islands."

Sr Caputo's strong stand on the Falkland issue, complemented by a

similarly tough negotiating stand on the Beagle Channel dispute, which has brought Chile and Argentina to the brink of war twice in recent years, has surprised observers here who expected the Radical Party, firmly based in the middle class, to adopt a more compromising approach.

A senior Peronist thought the Radicals were afraid of offending the strong nationalist opinion on the two issues.

Sr Caputo said Argentina wants to accept a mediated solution of the Beagle Channel conflict proposed by the Pope, but only if it meets certain conditions. Chile has accepted the papal solution unconditionally.

The new government, he said, will treat the Falklands and Beagle Channel issues separately from the rest of "a strong, independent diplomacy" aimed at improving Argentina's international image. It would seek a special relationship with western Europe and a "mature and independent" relationship with Washington.

"We shall form a task force aimed at revitalizing the Contadora group's peace proposal for Central America, and we shall not hesitate to condemn interference by the United States in any Latin American country. We shall condemn Soviet intervention with equal force."

Sr Caputo said his government would promote respect for human rights in international bodies. "We must reflect abroad what we are calling for at home, and we have the moral right to do this."

(Under the military government which seized power in 1976, Argentina was virtually ostracized internationally for its violations of human rights. Sr Alfonsin made the investigation of those abuses and the trial of those responsible a principal promise of his campaign for the presidency.)

Asked if he thought the US would lift its embargo on weapons sales to Argentina, Sr Caputo replied: "If they want to lift their embargo, they can go ahead and lift it, but buying weapons is not one of our priorities."

Robin Cook

White collars ripe for the wooing

Last week's proceedings of the CBI are perplexing to anyone raised in the robust convention of the Labour movement that the first duty of a trade union is to represent the interests of its members. Here we have a collective organization purporting to represent the interests of British industry meeting at a time when the fortunes of those industries have experienced a decline of truly historic proportions, and yet the nearest it can bring itself to calling on the Government to assist is to ask for "flexibility".

It is possible to say many things about the monetarist experiment of the past four years. It is certainly possible to maintain that the financial institutions have done well out of it. Indeed at one level monetarism is little more than a device for transferring resources from the industrial to the financial sector by means of record real interest rates and an overvalued exchange rate.

It is simply not possible to maintain with a straight face that monetarism has been good for industry. Four years after the experiment began manufacturing output is still a sixth below its starting point, a collapse without precedent in the records of output since the industrial revolution.

Imports of manufactured goods now exceed British exports of manufactured goods for the first time since the Tudors.

The puritan tradition that we achieve salvation through suffering still retains a potent appeal to British psychology, and in some quarters recital of the pain inflicted by monetarism appears nearly to heighten confidence that it will deliver us into the promised land of high productivity and inflation.

The CBI has no excuse for sharing such misplaced faith. Barely a week before its conference it unveiled its most recent industrial survey which showed that both export orders and investment intentions had taken another dip. In the wake of such figures it is perhaps not surprising that the most vigorous speech denouncing "flexibility" (and presumably endorsing rigidity) came not from an industrialist but from a developer.

Nor can the CBI even plead guilty to neglecting the objective interests of its members, but enter in mitigation that it was defending their subjective perceptions. This will not wash thanks to the British Institute of Management which last month unveiled the results of its ORC survey of managers. One hundred per cent of the sample described the past two years as difficult to one degree or another: not one opted for the response that times had not been difficult.

Asked to identify the greatest barrier to export sales, the largest number plumped for the high exchange rate. Asked how govern-

ment could best help industry, the second largest requested that it "inject more money into the economy". Far from lending support to the poses struck at the CBI conference, these results approximate much more closely to Labour's strategy for economic recovery.

They also chime in with the constancy of experience of any MP with much industry left, as I know from a recent visit to the British factory of an American multinational, a contemporary edifice of the glass still surrounded by fields.

The factory produces medical goods for use in hospitals. The first preoccupation of production management is their anxiety about the cuts in public expenditure which are hitting their market. Unlike the CBI and the Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, they do not see the rolling back of the public sector as an opportunity for expansion, but as another pressure for contraction.

Their second anxiety is the threat from cheap imports. The two topics are intimately related, because hospital procurement officers confronted with an arbitrary cut in their budget have no alternative but to buy the cheapest.

Frequently the cheapest will also be the least effective, lasting the shortest time, having the highest proportion of defective items, and in the occasional spectacular case proving to be contaminated. These however are secondary considerations to a procurement officer whose remit is to achieve an immediate cut in invoices.

The priorities of time management find no echo in the prejudices aired at the CBI, but they are neatly mirrored in Labour's policy objectives of using public expenditure to stimulate industrial output and to plan procurement to encourage import substitution rather than import penetration. Moreover, these are not the soberly suited men with homogenized accents from the finance departments. They are frequently men who come from the shop floor and remain in contact with it. They are one section of the upwardly mobile to whom Labour now addresses its message.

And there is one neglected but fascinating statistic which suggests they could be won. Among those manufacturing firms which have survived since 1979 there has been a big drop in the number declaring a donation to the Tory party. Of every five firms which made such a donation in 1979, two made no donation in 1982.

Although the chairman may still be allowed out to the CBI conference to indulge in a spot of loyalist rhetoric, back at the mill there are people with a shrewd appreciation of what has been done to them and who did it.

The author is Labour MP for Livingston.

Anne Sofer

Have they got you on an ist list?

We politicians, at a loss for a handy bit of invective to hurl at our opponents, are increasingly turning to the useful suffix "-ist".

It is amazingly versatile. For a start, it can be tacked on to the end of an ordinary political adjective to give it a flavour of something altogether more sinister and creditable. Thus, "leftist" in the mouth of Mr Reagan recently, and "rightist" as it might come from, simply describe a position on the political map: we are led to believe that an insidious and fanatical tendency is at work.

Peter Tatchell, in his book *The Battle for Bermuda*, which I have just finished reading, uses the words "Labourist" and "City-boss Labourism" as terms of abuse against his right-wing enemies. But my favourite epithet in this category is "workerist" - the word used by the Labour left to describe those middle-class comrades even further to the left who have deliberately assumed working-class accents and life styles. There must, I feel, be an equivalent at the other end of the political spectrum.

Another use of "-ist" is its attachment to the names of famous or infamous politicians to sum up a political philosophy and style. It seems that only communist or French leaders acquire this prestige (Stalinist, Gaullist, etc.). Otherwise, political stars acquire only the slightly insulting "-ite", with its implication of groupie or camp-follower (Bennite, Thatcherite, McCarthyite...). Most of our more distinguished politicians of this century (and all our prime ministers except Mrs Thatcher) have completed their careers without either "-ists" or "-ites": did Lloyd George or Attlee or Macmillan need them?

I am as guilty as anyone else checking back through recent articles I find I have used the terms "fantasist" and "purist" in ways meant to discredit ideas I dislike. But at least I have not gone further and used one of the even more poisonous suffixes. A "Trotskyist" may be bad enough but nothing like as threatening as a "Trotskyoid" - a term I encountered recently among left-wing non-Trotskyist socialists. ("Oid" has a great potential: what about "Thatcheroid" for John Selwyn Gummer and his ilk? I think of course is a useful word too.)

But the greatest exploitation of "-ist" as a term of abuse lies in that great gold-mine of gull-generation, social prejudice. Tack "-ist" on to the end of an emotive word (race, sex and so on) and you have produced a weapon that really gets under the ribs and hurts. Nobody can bear to be thought prejudiced.

Take, for instance, the great row we had at County Hall last week about the new appointments to the London Transport Board. What had happened was that Ken Livingstone, despite assurances last summer that any new appointments to the board would have the approval not only of the chairman but of all political parties on the council, had persuaded his own party (decidedly leftist, not to say confrontationist) none the less to steam ahead and make two blatantly political appointments. That one of them was of a black 25-year-old female resulted in the Labour Party having a field day with our protests.

"Racist, sexist, apist," they chanted and screamed in reverberating crescendo. (And, of course, the fact that we objected even more strongly to the other appointment - of a white, middle-aged man - cut no ice at all.)

But the guilt-fired "isms" do not end there. Apart from "classism" (a useful phrase to describe almost any social attitude one does not approve of) there is "hetero-sexism". I, the biased attitudes heterosexuals have towards homosexuals. I have recently discovered that "hetero-sexism awareness classes" are available for those conscious of their own prejudices and seeking help in eradicating them.

Unfortunately, although all this is useful political ammunition, its effect on the wider community can be counter-productive. Although I now find "sexism" and "racism" tripping off the tongue quite easily, I find of others long-standing fighters for racial and sexual equality of many years standing, and people who know full well the deep-seated nature of prejudice - who recoil from the language, the revivalist flavour, the message of "You may think you're saved, but you're not unless you come forward at one of our meetings and confess".

Besides, it can lead to appalling difficulties of definition. My local paper last week reported that the film specially chosen to launch Camden's "Anti-Racist Year" was halted amid fierce protests that far from being anti-racist it was deeply racist - and sexist to boot. Fierce fighting over its screening is reported to be continuing among various left-wing groups.

Almost any great idea can be trivialized and corrupted by letting politicians grab a monopoly of it, and I fear that what the suffragettes and civil rights campaigners started earlier this century (and what men and women in other countries are doing now) is running that risk here today.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for Camden, St Pancras North.

مكتبة الأهل



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TIME TO HEAL

It is the power of symbolism in politics which is too often left out of rational calculations. The Falklands war was full of symbol. Here was an island people - British to the core - invaded by the forces of a Fascist dictatorship. A British Armada sailed from ports which had for centuries witnessed the Royal Navy slipping out on the tide to fight other unseen wars far from home. Against all expectations, certainly in Buenos Aires and most probably elsewhere in the world, these symbols enabled the idea of the operation to be sustained during weeks of diplomacy.

It was a triumph of collective imagination over the uncertainty of the result, and explained why the operation attracted such colossal and cumulative support which was evidence of the national will, though, in its undramatic quality, in vivid contrast to the scenes of hysteria which could be observed in Argentina. That there was something rotten about the state of Argentina, which lay at the heart of the Falklands invasion, was clear to all however much shouting and parading there was.

Symbols were important then, and they are important now in Argentina. A moment of history has arrived with the recent election result which we in Britain should not ignore. There is a danger that the British Government will show a tragic insensitivity if it does not recognize this moment and respond to it.

For the first time since the early 1930s Argentina's political system has a completeness about it based on the possibility of two political parties - the radicals and the Peronists - giving substance to an alternating system of government with civilian control over the military. Hitherto, at least since Peron's arrival in 1946, the choice has lain basically between Peronism and militarism.

The militarization of the Argentine political establishment is based on six coups since 1930 and has become more deeply rooted than ever since 1976. Consequently an entire political generation in Argentina has suffered from this contagion of the military in politics, from which no party leader has been immune with the exception of Señor Alfonsín himself. The new President has never held any kind of government post under Argentina's tainted system.

The very fact of Señor Alfonsín's election registers a statement by the Argentines which goes far beyond the statements he has made, or can yet make, himself. Yet even he has made it clear that the military will be put back in its place. Senior officers responsible for the dark past of Argentina's counter-terror will be arraigned; high spending of even the post-Falklands period will be reversed; inter-service rivalries will be dealt with.

These tasks will not be easy. Britain should welcome that they are being attempted at all. The

Falklands invasion was a symptom of military misrule. It was a desperate attempt to bolster the army's waning prestige in the hope that a victory would excuse the past excesses in a general mood of patriotic euphoria. That longing for some palpable symbol of patriotism remains only just below the surface in Argentina, a society of immigrants without a common past. They have only been able to unite behind the rhetoric of the Malvinas crusade because they have been unable to capture anything more complete about their national unity.

If Britain could be certain that the Argentine system could be made "coup proof" we could be equally certain that, given patient diplomacy and open dealing, our differences with Argentina over the Falklands would never lead to another invasion, even if they could not be fully and finally resolved.

We cannot object to a civilian government laying a rival claim to territory to which we believe we have the better title, provided that claim is not pursued by military means. The whole essence of a conversation between governments which share respect for democratic procedures and for the rule of law is that they talk through their differences, easing those which are capable of compromise, and isolating those which are incapable of resolution, so that the residue does not need to become politically intolerable.

At the United Nations today there will be the annual call for negotiations to start between Argentina and the United Kingdom. The experience with the Junta in its pre-war and post-war phases showed that it was not capable of negotiation. However, that should not apply to a civilian administration under Señor Alfonsín whose legitimacy, and therefore freedom of manoeuvre, is much greater.

The Junta was incapable of declaring a cessation of hostilities. Señor Alfonsín has already avowed an intention to settle the dispute peacefully. As long as Argentina remained under military rule Britain has had no option but to carry on the planned defence of the Falkland Islands and the development of institutional government for Falklanders. Of course there is no guarantee that Argentina will remain "coup proof". The military in two or three years may have recovered its morale and its discipline. The Alfonsín government may be unpopular, given the enormous and painful tasks of reconstruction which face it. It is all the more important, therefore, that Britain shows that it is easier to talk to a civilian government about the Falkland Islands than it was or would be with a military one, so that never again can the Argentine military use the Falklands issue as an argument to legitimize its own claim to power and to discredit a civilian government through apparent lack of patriotism.

That is why Mrs Thatcher is wrong to object to the likely

resumption of American arms sales to Argentina. She knows she can rely on Washington not to sell weapons which would gravely alter the balance of power round the Falklands, not least because the Junta has done all the major restocking it could since last year's defeat, with substantial arms deliveries from France, Israel and others. Señor Alfonsín will not wish to indulge the military in more expenditure than is necessary, but it is important for him to be reconciled with Washington, and, in view of the resumption of civilian control over the military, the ending of the American arms embargo would symbolize that reconciliation more effectively than anything else.

What should happen with the Falkland Islands themselves will be discussed in a later article on this page. It does not at this stage affect the immediate British response to the new atmosphere in Buenos Aires, other than in two ways.

First, as a gesture of goodwill to Argentina in recognition of the prospect of an imminent civilian takeover, the exclusion zone should be unilaterally reduced to coastal waters. That is a risk, but a small one indeed compared to the other risks which Britain has taken in the South Atlantic.

Secondly, once Señor Alfonsín is installed as President, Britain should invite him to send a representative of his administration to the Falklands to see for himself that the work of reconstruction and the plans for the new airfield do not comprise preparations for a huge South Atlantic base but, on the contrary, are necessary preconditions for an eventual and much desired reduction in British force levels certainly as long as Argentina fails to recognize a cessation of hostilities and even beyond that given the unpredictable state of recent Argentine history. Indeed the more Argentina's leaders can go to the Falklands the more likely they are to see that the issue itself should not be a central one in relations between our two countries. That kind of contact could also lead to more fruitful discussions about future developments in the Antarctic region as a whole.

At present Britain can do no more than welcome the arrival of civilian rule in Buenos Aires and take steps which should help to consolidate the new-found integrity of Argentine politics. With both Britain and Argentina that should not involve burying the past, but building on its lessons, freely recognized, in a spirit of reconciliation. That is the message Britain should give today to the United Nations, by announcing its readiness to discuss all differences with a democratically inspired Argentine government. Then both countries would start to discover what issues can yield to a spirit of reconciliation and which of the wounds of war will need still further time to heal.

The new scheme is the work of honourable men and women, legislating for the world not as it is but as they would wish it to be, and eager to escape the guilty feeling of belonging to an elitist institution. In doing so, they have committed a *reckless idea* which seems to me to make them far more guilty.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
HUGH LLOYD-JONES
Regius Professor of Greek,
Christ Church, Oxford,
November 11.

Guarantees of scholarship

From Professor Hugh Lloyd-Jones.
Sir, Your issue (Spectrum, November 11) contains an account of the scheme recommended by the Dover Committee, by means of which the University of Oxford proposes to give better opportunities to applicants for entry from state schools by abandoning the requirement that each candidate shall take an entrance examination. It is alleged that the examination has not proved a reliable means of predicting the candidates' success or failure. But the chief value and purpose of the examination has been to guarantee that schools, both state and private, maintained a certain academic standard.

American experience shows that as soon as such requirements are abolished, as they have been in the United States, where candidates must be judged by the results of a national testing agency, a gradual but marked decline in the quality of the intake and of the academic standard of the universities is likely to result.

Beyond all doubt, the result of admitting candidates without even this test has been a disastrous decline in many state and city universities, so that attempts are now being made slowly to restore the requirements that professors in their liberal enthusiasm had been eager to relax.

The new scheme at Oxford has been approved because members of the faculty feel guilty at the thought that entry has been easier for some people than for others, and wish to ensure that what they would call "social justice" would prevail. The same issue of *The Times* contains also a powerful article in which Professor Friedrich von Hayek shows how the term "social" has been misapplied, and how there can be no "social justice", but only justice between individual persons. The new system will harm individual persons and the country as a whole by diminishing the quality of the education that all entrants will receive.

Only by the pursuit of excellence can our finances or our studies prosper, and Oxford is living up to its name as the home of lost causes when it adopts this scheme a few months after the country as a whole has strongly reaffirmed its belief in the value of competition in the pursuit of excellence.

The new scheme is the work of honourable men and women, legislating for the world not as it is but as they would wish it to be, and eager to escape the guilty feeling of belonging to an elitist institution. In doing so, they have committed a *reckless idea* which seems to me to make them far more guilty.

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New health board

From Lord Young of Dartington.
Sir, Your report (November 7) that the Royal College of Nursing is pressing for the inclusion of the Chief Nursing Officer on the new Health Services Supervisory Board highlights one of the main weaknesses of the Griffiths proposals. It is surely risky yet another great disservice to the NHS to introduce a managerial plan without the cooperation of the nurses, the doctors or the patients.

Mr Griffiths had soft words to say about the consumer interest in his report ("A very great deal of importance is attached to ensuring that the views of the community at all levels are taken into account in any decision"), but where in the organization of the supervisory board, or in any other part of the proposals, is there acceptance of the need for consumers to sit around the table with the others?

Yours faithfully,
YOUNG OF DARTINGTON,
Chairman,
College of Health,
18 Victoria Park Square, E2,
November 7.

Housing in Barnet

From Councillor John Perry.
Sir, May I please put the record straight, at least as far as one matter is concerned in your report (October 29) of Mrs Thatcher's visit to a sheltered housing scheme in East Finchley.

As Chairman of Barnet Housing Committee I sought the support of Mrs Thatcher, the local MP, in gaining as large as possible a housing investment programme allocation from central Government for 1984-85. In support of this I pointed out that to date, i.e. with only seven months of the current financial year gone, Barnet's capital expenditure on housing was at such a level that if all other housing authorities were spending as efficiently, then the Government need have fewer worries about a capital underspending nationally.

To date, in the current financial year, Barnet has already spent over 85 per cent of its housing capital allocation for 1983-84.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PERRY, Chairman,
Housing Committee,
Counsellor of Barnet,
Members' Room,
Town Hall, Hendon, NW4,
November 8.

Political stability in Northern Ireland

From Professor Cornelius O'Leary.
Sir, Apart from your cautiously optimistic leading article (November 7), the recent Thatcher-Fitzgerald meeting passed without much notice in *The Times*. The general attitude seems to be that relations between the British and Irish governments are restored to their pre-Falklands friendliness, and that there will be no significant change in government policy towards Northern Ireland. Plainly a new initiative in this province is very low in the list of priorities of the present British Government.

From the vantage point of Belfast the situation looks very different. Although the violence has diminished in recent years, the economic decline which it helped generate has continued unabated. The overall unemployment rate has not fallen below 20 per cent for over a year; it is currently 21.5 per cent in the whole province and 40 per cent in the worst "black spot", the Catholic town of Strabane. Moreover, the manufacturing sector, on which the prosperity of the province was built, has declined from 177,000 people in 1970 to 95,000 in 1983.

To give the Northern Ireland Office its due, it has engaged (through its agencies) in expensive promotional drives in Great Britain, the US and West Germany. The reaction from the business community in each has been uniform: Northern Ireland cannot expect the fresh investment it so desperately needs until political stability is restored. (Indeed, in recent years there has been considerably more investment by British firms in the Irish Republic than in Northern Ireland.)

Political stability can only be restored through agreement between the representatives of the two main groups in the Community, such as Lord Whitehead achieved - against all the conventional wisdom of the time - exactly 10 years ago. The most important fact about the power-sharing executive led by the late Brian Faulkner and Gerry Fitt between January and May 1974 was not that it failed - through circumstances outside its control - but that it happened at all. Since it did happen, no one can say that a similar arrangement could not be made in the future.

The present attitude among Ulster politicians on both sides is un-

Lack of 'whingeing'

By Mr John Fowles.
Sir, It was unfortunate that your leader writer (November 8) was apparently unable to attend the opening day of the CBI conference about which he wrote with such feeling and with such uncharacteristic insouciance.

If he had been present, he would have heard no "whingeing" - there was none. He would have heard a great deal of hard-headed realism about the state of the UK economy and the policies which both Government and industry needed to apply to put it right.

We tried to get across to Government the unpalatable but inescapable fact that lower inflation, which we applaud, will not by itself produce economic growth.

It was continually stressed from the platform that costs must be reduced, not only by Government action, but above all by positive and determined action by businessmen to improve the performance of their companies in every aspect.

The theme of the conference

Gibraltar shipping

From Mr G. J. Bonwick.
Sir, I have followed with interest the correspondence in your columns on Gibraltar shipping. Mr A. K. Canepa, Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Gibraltar, (October 13), was ill-advised to place so much reliance for ship safety on classification societies which are, of course, non-profit making commercial organizations.

It is important to appreciate that these societies are not concerned in any way with ship personnel or manning standards. Ship safety is the responsibility of the state whose flag a vessel flies and it cannot escape this by delegation. If a state cannot provide or guarantee the necessary administration, supervision and technical expertise, it should not get in the ship registration business.

I pointed out at a nautical meeting addressed by a former chief executive of Lloyd's Register of Shipping as recently as October 6 that it is by no means unknown, maybe not even uncommon, for vessels in an appalling condition of structural disrepair but with all her statutory certificates in order to founder with all hands soon after

the earthquake last night in Lige (report, November 9) is a sharp reminder of the potential hazard that this zone poses for centres of industry and population that lie along it.

For although the event was of moderate Richter magnitude, the damage caused was substantial and fatalities resulted.

Your leader of August 27 made light of earthquakes here, but only a few hundred miles away the people of Lige are taking them very seriously indeed.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MUIR WOOD,
Principia Mechanica Ltd,
Newtown House,
5 Vineyard Path,
East Sheen, SW14,
November 8.

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the earthquake last night in Lige (report, November 9) is a sharp reminder of the potential hazard that this zone poses for centres of industry and population that lie along it.

Church and remarriage

From Mr George G. Brown.
Sir, Maintenance is an indivisible part of the marriage vow. "With this ring I thee wed . . . and with all my worldly goods I thee endow," and a vow of mutual support is included in the Alternative Service Book.

The Bill proposes to remove the aim governing the provision of maintenance, that is it proposes to remove upon divorce the aim of placing the parties in the financial position they would have been in, if the marriage had not broken down, as far as it is practicable. The Bill states no aim of any sort.

This change in the law of maintenance inevitably alters the concept of marriage, it alters both maintenance and marriage from a contract for life into a contract terminable at will. Since I believe that marriage is the basis of society, I believe that an important principle is endangered.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE G. BROWN,
2 King's Bench Walk,
Temple, EC4,
November 11.

'Unfair' role of Mr Speaker

From Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop, MP for Tiverton (Conservative).
Sir, It was necessary for Mr Russell Johnston (feature, November 10) to remind us that he had been a Member of Parliament for 15 (or 17) years, since that is far from obvious from his complaint in your columns. For a considerable period of those years, Mr Johnston should have noticed that National Liberal MPs, because they were in an electoral alliance with the Conservatives (like the Liberals with the SDP), were treated by the Speaker as if they belonged to the same party, for purposes of "catching his eye". This was despite the fact that (like the Liberal and SDP) they had a separate political organisation, and separate party conference.

Nor was it only the Speaker who followed this entirely reasonable practice. The BBC never had a National Liberal MP as well as a Conservative MP on a programme. In all those years, I never heard Mr Johnston rise to protest against the inequity of such a course, nor did your columns revere to the strains of his indignation. It is apparently only "unfair" when it affects his own party. The House is well used to that sort of selective indignation.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN MAXWELL-HYSLOP,
House of Commons,
November 10.

The peace movement

From Mr Anthony Massey.
Sir, For *The Times* to comment that the Greenham Common demonstrators are Mr Heseltine's "most reliable allies in the battle for middle opinion" (leader, November 3) does not suggest a low standard of journalism.

But for Miss Sarah Haskins (November 11), to imply that because the demonstrators are women, therefore all the women in the country agree with them, does suggest a low standard of logic.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY MASSEY,
20 Orchard Rise,
Groombridge,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent,
November 11.

Above their station

From Mr Robin Hanbury-Tenison.
Sir, Well over 20,000 Cornishmen will want to know the reason why British Rail have chosen their county in which to perpetrate an act of quite exceptional stupidity. Without warning or consultation Bodmin Road station has had its name arbitrarily changed to Bodmin Parkway.

The reason, it appears, is that people will then know they can part there. They might as well change Paddington station to London Clampway.

Overnight dazzling, and presumably expensive, new signs went up last weekend, but it will be at least a year before all the timetables are changed, let alone the writing paper of the local residents, the station's main users.

May I appeal to British Rail to repeat all the signs in Bodmin Road's proper name, and to make further changes to publicity material etc could perhaps be spent in upgrading the public lavatories at the station, which are still not suitable for disabled people.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN HANBURY-TENISON,
Maidenhead,
Cardham,
Bodmin,
Cornwall,
November 7.

Rate for the job

From Mr I. R. Cartwright.
Sir, The Chairman of the Audit Commission (November 7) has perhaps said more than he should in admitting that salaries for private-sector auditors are higher than local government salaries for comparable posts.

Not only auditors are affected: within the last few months your own columns have carried advertisements for solicitors to head the legal departments of two (apparently medium-sized) development companies at salaries in the £35,000 - £45,000 range. By contrast, the post of City Solicitor of Birmingham (the biggest district authority in England) was recently advertised in the £24,000 - £25,000 range.

Most senior local government officers would welcome the disciplines and salaries of the private sector. But perhaps one may be forgiven for wondering how privatisation of professional services and increased Government control (pace the Audit Commission) are expected to achieve savings.

Yours faithfully,
IAN R. CARTWRIGHT,
Honorary Secretary,
Association of Local Government Lawyers,
23 Grange Drive,
Enley,
Huddersfield,
West Yorkshire,
November 7.

Dressing down

From Captain J. H. B. Allan, RM (Retd).
Sir, It is with diffidence that I take issue with a former shipmate of such eminence as Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin (November 8), but I must ask whether Lord Mountbatten would have appeared in public wearing binoculars, aiguillettes, the Garter star etc, without any form of headress?

Yours etc,
JAMES ALLAN,
Surinder,
Church Road,
Colinton Raleigh,
Devon,
November 8.

Religious education

From Mr Peter Barker.
Sir, Your article on Monday (October 31) about the refusal of the Department of Education and Science and the ILEA to support a voluntary aided school in north London makes one wonder about an unholy alliance of the left and the right to end the dual system in education.

De La Salle College has had approval for its teacher-training

courses withdrawn. In reply to protest Sir Keith Joseph has refused to recognize the right of different faiths to a certain percentage of places in teacher education. It would seem that this principle is now being extended to schools.

The reported reasons given by the DES for non-approval of the Orthodox Jewish school largely ignore the reason for the application, that is, its religious status. Falling rolls and financial cutbacks are used as reasons.

The real issue involved is the right of parents to choose the type of education they wish their children to have. Those of us who care about religious education marvel at the apparent unanimity of the minister in charge of schools and the ILEA.

Yours faithfully,
P. H. BARKER,
Librarian, De La Salle College,
Hopwood Hall,
Middleton, Manchester,
November 2.

Classical error

From Dr John Penman.
Sir, Your report (November 10) the Prince of Wales "read the funeral oration from *Pericles*".

From *Pericles*, *Prince of Tyre* by Thucydides, or *The History of the Peloponnesian War* by Shakespeare? Yours faithfully,
JOHN PENMAN,
Forester View, Upper Chute,
Andover, Hampshire,
November 11.

De La Salle College has had approval for its teacher-training

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Change in the odds with Goldsmith back in town

Investment in gaming companies which rely for their profits on roulette and blackjack has lost its attractions over the past three years. Casinos owned by Playboy, Coral and Ladbrokes were swept away in the cleaning carried out by the Gaming Board and the Metropolitan Police at the turn of the decade.

Attempts to win back lost gaming licences met with stiff opposition. Licensing justices were not persuaded that a change in visible executives necessarily meant a change in practices which had led to the withdrawal of licences in the first place.

But after falling away quite dramatically, business is now picking up, and gaming is attracting a new breed of entrepreneur.

Today the Unlisted Securities Market will see the debut of Aspinall Holdings, which combines the charisma of Mr John Aspinall and the business acumen of Sir James Goldsmith. The deeper significance of Aspinall's flotation should not be lost. Sir James is back to the London business scene which he pointedly left when he took Cavenham Foods into private ownership.

I do not imagine that the sharp Goldsmith eye and diamond brilliant commercial mind will be concentrated solely on the fortunes of one gaming company. Who knows, he may even revive his former passion for newspapers.

The Monopolies Commission may use the Pleasurama merger to say something more about the structure of the casino industry, particularly in London, which accounts for almost three-quarters of the total turnover in Britain.

Since the 1979 cleanup campaign, the number of London casinos has dropped by a third while the amount of money handed over for gambling chips has jumped by a third. For the survivors the pickings are rich.

To regain more than speculative appeal in the City, the companies it must

demonstrate an ability to sustain high management standards.

Meanwhile, Aspinall's offer is a rare event in the USM, for sale, should turn out a stag's delight.

With a market quotation in place, Aspinall has already attracted rumours that it might be about to make a deal or be the subject itself of an instant takeover bid. Such gossip is common with new issues but the industry could take the merger route to sort itself out.

How feasible that it will become clearer this week with the expected publication of the Monopolies Commission report dealing with the merger between Pleasurama and Trident. Trident, with the astute Lord Hanson at the top, is now organizing itself to depend largely on profits from the Clermont Club and the Victoria Sporting Club.

Grand Metropolitan is also under the commission's scrutiny because it has a 30 per cent stake in Pleasurama. Both Pleasurama and Grand Met's gambling subsidiary Mecca has stakes in the Ritz casino and the Casanova. Pleasurama owns Maxim's.

Lorho, the creation of Mr Tiny Rowland and already a casino operator, has bought 45 Park Lane and is likely to apply for a licence to bring back gaming to this old Playboy Club premises.



Goldsmith: something to celebrate

Gower revised and radical

Professor Laurence Gower's epic report on Investor Protection is complete. Its central, and most critical section is the choice Professor Gower believes the Government must make between setting up a full American-style Securities and Exchange Commission and a revamped version of his original proposals for self-regulatory bodies answerable to a beefed-up Council for the Securities Industry working in harness with the Department of Trade and Industry.

Anyone operating in the investment industry who was not a member of one of the self-regulatory bodies would be required to register with the department.

Professor Gower is against any exceptions to the regulations the Government will make. Financial journalists for example, who provide investment advice would have to be registered. He has however dropped the idea both of making merchant banks responsible for the activities of high street investment advisers.

Professor Gower has also stepped back from his original ambition to ban all doorstep selling of financial products.

Lobbying by the insurance industry has it seems, convinced him that this would be too Draconian.

His proposal will probably be a self-administered licensing system with the insurance companies themselves vetting standards and insisting on minimum standards of competence before granting a licence.

The biggest disappointment in the report will be the absence of recommendations for a comprehensive compensation scheme.

The biggest surprise arises from Professor Gower's overwhelming need for a full blown Pensions Act setting the ground rules under which pension funds would have to operate. This was not strictly within his remit but he is unlikely to let this opportunity pass without some reference to the inadequacy of the trust laws under which the funds at present operate.

The report will not be published until the Government has had time to mull over it. It will probably be available therefore some time toward the end of January.

Higher paid face increase in National Insurance levy

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Taxes are likely to rise for the well-paid as a result of increased ceilings for the payment of National Insurance contributions, to be announced by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on Thursday. Take-home pay for workers earning more than £245 a week, or £12,740 a year, is expected to be reduced by £1 a week.

But Mr Lawson, in his autumn statement, is expected to present an optimistic prospect for the economy in the coming year, with economic growth of close to 3 per cent, inflation edging down to below 5 per cent by the end of 1984 and unemployment falling for the first time since the recession began in 1979.

Government projections in the last Budget suggested that the Chancellor might have about £500m to return in tax

cuts in 1984-85, but Mr Lawson is now thought to take a more gloomy view.

In spite of his success in keeping public spending plans in line with the £126.4 billion originally envisaged for next year, the Chancellor believes that a substantial safety margin is needed if he is a reputation of this year's experience when a threatened spending overshoot necessitated his £1 billion emergency cuts package in July.

He is keen, therefore, to leave more or less intact the £3 billion reserve for unplanned contingencies built into next year's plans. This is twice this year's reserve which was widely criticized as inadequate, especially since it was combined with an allowance for under-spending by government departments which shows no sign of materializing.



Lawson: gloomy view

Mr Lawson is also cautious over revenue prospects. Higher than expected growth and North Sea oil production have boosted revenues this year and should do so again in 1984. But the lower inflation that the Chancellor is predicting will

dampen revenues from spending taxes such as VAT.

The Chancellor is not expected to raise National Insurance contribution rates, now 9 per cent. Buoyant earnings and a levelling out in the rise in unemployment have left the National Insurance fund in a relatively healthy financial position. But the floor and ceiling for contributions will be raised, as they are each year, in line with the increase in state benefits.

The floor will rise from earnings of £32.50 a week to £34, saving some low-paid workers nearly £3 a week. The ceiling, now £235 a week, is likely to go up by £10.

Cable and Wireless has formed a joint venture with Chinese companies to provide a telephone service for China's Shenzhen special economic zone.

Yen-dollar pact 'will aid Europe'

From Bailey Morris Washington

Mr Donald Regan, the United States Treasury Secretary, said that a newly negotiated agreement with Japan to correct the wide imbalance between the undervalued yen and the overvalued dollar could have a beneficial impact on European currencies.

This is the message he will deliver to finance ministers of the largest industrial countries when the group of 10 nations meets in Paris next week to discuss the new agreement and other proposals designed to check the erratic, upward movement of the dollar.

Mr Regan said he would brief ministers on the specifics of the agreement reached in Tokyo which called for establishment of a working group of American and Japanese treasury officials to submit a report by next spring on ways to revitalize the yen in relation to the dollar.

"If we are successful in strengthening the yen then I would expect the currencies of some other nations represented at the Group of 10 meeting to strengthen as well," Mr Regan said.

This would reduce pressure on the United States to take steps to check the upward movement of the dollar and perhaps lessen the desire of some nations for a new Bretton Woods-type conference to reform the international monetary system, treasury officials said. The United States has opposed both these proposals.

Commenting on the dollar-yen agreement, Mr Regan said it was designed not only to halve the \$20 billion United States trade deficit with Japan but also to open Japanese capital markets to foreign investors.

The Japanese have proposed one way to open their markets by allowing more foreign companies to raise money in the yen market by changing their designated companies system.

Under this system, foreign direct investment is now prohibited in an estimated eight to 10 per cent important industrial sectors including mining.

The Japanese have also agreed to take steps to internationalize their currency further by allowing investors to take forward positions in the yen.

"If more investors begin to buy the yen then there will be less demand for the dollar and all currencies will benefit," Mr Regan said.

The yen problem is only one aspect of the mounting US trade deficit which is generating growing domestic pressure on the Administration to do something about the overvalued dollar.

At present, the dollar overvaluation is 50 per cent or more against some European currencies with the result that where the United States once enjoyed trade surpluses, it is now suffering huge trade deficits.

With the European Community, for example, the US in the first nine months of the year had its first deficit in years. This ran at a rate of \$305m, implying a deficit of \$400m for the year.

Irrepressible dollar, page 16

Congress staves off financial crisis

By Michael Prest and Bailey Morris

The extraordinary prospect of the US Federal Government running out of money was averted over the weekend when Congress, which has blocked specific spending bills, agreed on emergency measures to allow the Government to go on functioning.

But another crisis could blow up today when Congress will be asked to approve raising the ceiling on the national debt from \$1,389 billion to \$1,450 billion. The increase is being vigorously opposed by conservative members of Congress who want to cut the federal government budget deficit, currently at \$200m.

One casualty of the tortuous and prolonged debate at the weekend was early approval of the proposed \$8.4 billion rise in America's contribution to the International Monetary Fund.

House Democrats have been tying the IMF contribution to a domestic housing bill. But Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary, said he expects the increase to be passed before Congress recesses on November 18.

The stop-gap measures provided funds for government agencies and programmes until the end of the fiscal year on November 30 in the absence of specific spending Bills which have yet to be approved by Congress.

The huge spending Bill was approved only after the White House and House Democrats were able to forge a compromise on social welfare programmes.

In the end, President Reagan was forced to accept slightly less than he wanted for defence and foreign aid which were cut by

\$13 billion and \$11.5 billion respectively.

But House Democrats also scaled back sharply their demands for an estimated \$1 billion in domestic spending programmes for the poor.

As finally approved, the measure contained \$100 million more than the President wanted for domestic programmes, including \$98.7 million for education, health and shelter programmes.

Had Congress failed to approve the measure, key government agencies including the Defence Department and the White House could have been forced to shut down today.

The debt ceiling legislation is equally critical to government operations and must be approved before Congress adjourns on November 18.

Mr Regan earlier last week, gave a warning of grave economic consequences affecting both financial markets and the American recovery if Congress did not move quickly.

The Treasury was unable to raise new money on securities markets to pay government bills after the senate's refusal to raise the debt ceiling when the current level of \$1,389 billion was exceeded.

Mr Regan said the result was a severe disruption of financial markets and a new rise in borrowing costs.

In order to continue to pay the Government's bills, the Treasury recently informed 14,000 US banks that it would begin drawing down its cash reserves which stood at \$30 billion at the end of October and are now down to \$26 billion, Mr Regan said.

Oil fever grips New Zealand

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Britain's Tricentrol, which is about to start oil exploration in the South China Sea, has sparked off a bout of "oil fever" on the normally placid New Zealand Stock Exchanges.

The exchanges at Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin have become tourist attractions as oil company shares have surged. Brokers expect this week to be less hectic than last but shares will continue to rise.

Police had to be called to the

Auckland Stock Exchange as spectators spilled on to the trading floor to see the prices

sparked off by Tricentrol changed hands last week.

The activity has been caused by Tricentrol's discovery of "traces of hydrocarbon" in an exploratory well off New Zealand's north-west coast. Tricentrol has made it clear that it is too early to evaluate the significance of the find.

However, brokers have interpreted the find as "very positive", and more than

2,000,000 shares in the three New Zealand companies involved with Tricentrol changed hands last week.

Tricentrol is the operator in the block at Moki field with the New Zealand Government holding 51 per cent stake. The three New Zealand companies involved are Petro Taranaki with 6.4 per cent, Cue Petroleum with 5.125 per cent and Horizon Oil with 4.08 per cent.

Shares in the three doubled in value at one stage.

Peat faces resistance

The European COFI company is standing firm against Guinness Peat's attempt to take over investment trust Moorside via the issue of 44million shares.

Attempts last week by Guinness's chief executive, Mr Alastair Morton, to rally critical shareholders' support before tomorrow's vote have failed. Other substantial shareholders will be joining COFI's 8.3 per cent holding in voting against a bid where the logic is at best dubious.

The new shares to be issued have been underwritten at 40p - far too low, argue the opposition - when the present market price is just pennies below the year's best at 54p.

STOCK EXCHANGES

Change on week

FT Index 725.1 up 6.8
FT 100 Index 83.70 up 0.68
FT All Shares 453.48 up 6.36
Bargains: 18,730
Index: 96.51 up 1.89
New York: Dow Jones Average: (close) 1250.20 up 31.91
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 9,305.63 down 36.05
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index 844.94 down 44.55
Amsterdam: 150.5 up 5.1
Sydney: AO Index 712.4 up 23.5
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1015.8 up 20.9
Bremen: General Index 122.88 down 1.11
Paris: CAC Index 142.1 up 1.8

CURRENCIES

Change on week

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4875 up 5pts
Index 84.1 up 0.2
DM 3.9825 up 0.0245
FF 12.11 up 0.072
Yen 350.50 up 0.5
Bosler Index 128.0 unchanged
DM 2.8765
NEW YORK CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4850
Dollar DM 2.8805
INTERNATIONAL
EGUO 5.70471
SDRO 7.09665

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interim: Alko (quarter), American Oil Field Land Securities, Outch Investment Trust, Single Group, Sketchley.
FINAL: Associated Heat Services, TOMORROW - Interim: BET Omnibus Services, Cable and Wireless, GEI International, Godfrey Weiss, HAT Group, International Signal and Control Group, Royal Insurance, Young and Co's Brewery.
FINAL: New Court Trust, Scottish National Trust, Somic, Union Steel Corporation (of South Africa).
WEDNESDAY - Interim: Allied Irish Banks, Bestwood, Michael Black, Chamberlain and Hill, Cullen's Stores, Jersey General Investment Trust, London and Liverpool Trust, London Trust, Monks Investment Trust, R Most, Mountview Estates, TR Technology Investment Trust, Tesco, Thomas Warrington, Final: Wade Pottery.
THURSDAY - Interim: Aquasun Group, Brown Shipley, East Midland Allied Press, E. Elliott, LCP Holdings, LRC International, Philips Lampe NV (third quarter), Plessey (second quarter), Final: Akroyd and Smithers, M J Gleeson, Kwik Save Discount Group.
FRIDAY - Interim: Black Arrow Group, Geers Gross, S Jerome, Property Partnerships, G Ruddle, R Smallshaw (Kritwear), Spong Holdings, Final: Hickson International.

The Week Ahead, page 14

NEWS IN BRIEF

Davignon to press Japan on deficit

The EEC's trade deficit with Japan is expected to dominate talks that, Viscount Etienne Davignon, the industrial affairs commissioner, will have with Japanese officials during a four-day visit to Japan starting today.

Viscount Davignon will re-emphasize his concern about the EEC's chronic trade imbalance with Japan which totalled 12 billion European currency units (\$10.2 billion) last year.

Japanese figures show that this imbalance was \$7.7 billion in the first nine months of this year, up 7 per cent over the same period last year.

Blue Circle Industries has lodged an application with the Treasury to have a part of its 300-acre site at Dartford, Kent to be designated as a freeport.

The Under Secretary of Energy, Mr David Morphet, has been meeting Gulf States oil industry officials in an attempt to smooth over difficulties likely to emerge about North Sea oil production rates.

On advice from Samuel Montagu, the merchant bank, the Swedish Government has proposed that the public be offered equity in the country's third biggest bank, the state-owned Post- och Kreditbanken, PK bank.

The electronic industry's contribution to economic growth during the 1980s might not be as big as expected according to the Cambridge Econometrics. Parts of the industry may not be able to resist foreign competition, and little growth for the industry as a whole is forecast for the mid-1980s. Average output is expected to rise by 1.9 per cent a year between 1986 and 1990, however.

Big outdoors is a £500m market place

By Ronald Faux

Equipment that protects the outdoor enthusiast from every calamity between drenching and death, could earn a turnover this year of £500m, according to the Camping and Outdoor Leisure Association (Cola).

Specialists who manufacture tents, waterproofs, rock climbing and mountaineering gear report healthy business in the recession, and remarkable growth in newcomers to the trade.

Few industries must listen more carefully to the critics' thoughts of their customers or experience more rapid change. Mr John Jackson, chairman of Cola, said this is underlined by the appearance of Youth Hostel Association shops in the high street selling an increasingly wide range of equipment, Scout

shops retailing outdoor equipment, and the move by Blacks, probably the biggest retailer, into the top quality clothing market.

Mr Mark Vallance, managing director of Wild Country, a climbing equipment firm, has doubled turnover every year for five years. He spends a considerable time hanging from a beam in his office testing the climbing harnesses and artificial fibre loops that protect rock climbers.

"In the old days, the golden rule was that a climber never fell off, particularly, the leader. That is not so, now. Climbers attempting the hardest routes accept a fall without qualms, knowing that their 'protection' will stop them before they hit the ground", he said.

These facts emerged from the 16 billion US treasury auctions, which went well. Yields declined slightly. There was plenty of money available to buy the government paper.

By the end of the week, the December bond futures contract had risen 1 3/4% from previous Friday and other fixed

interest futures had also risen in line.

The stock market had a good week, responding to the improved sentiment in the fixed interest markets with a rise of 30 points on the Dow Jones industrial average.

The Standard and Poor's December futures contract rose from 164.20 on November 4 to 167.85 last Friday - an increase of 2.25 per cent in one week.

There is now hope that the bond markets have overcome whatever it was that ailed them and are now ready to continue the rally that was interrupted early last month.

Bond futures had declined steadily between May and August, reflecting the fear of inflation generated by the

Federal Reserve's strongly expansionary monetary policy that was in place between July last year and April this year.

Fed abandoned this policy in April, and imposed a freeze on banks' reserves that is still in effect.

By mid-August, the bond markets had accepted the fact of the big change in Fed policy initiated (with the benefit of hindsight) in April. The bond market took heart realizing that the central bank was committed to a different policy line.

The treasury bond futures December 1983 contract, which had fallen from 79 in May to under 68 in mid-August, began to recover.

By the first week of last month this contract, indicative

Chicago adds Brent crude

North Sea Brent crude will be added to the crude oil future contract offered by the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) in a move to increase volume in the contract before the London International Petroleum Exchange (IPE) launches its first crude oil contract on November 22.

Brent crude is planned to be the IPE key crude. It has the same characteristics as the CBOT key crude.

The CBOT, which has seen most oil trading move to the New York exchange, sees Brent crude making its contracts more attractive because of their important role in the Rotterdam stock market.

Wall Street cheered by Treasury auctions

US bonds regain their momentum

The US bond markets know that there is not going to be any shortage of government paper for a couple of years. They believe they are going to have to fight to get rid of it. Admittedly, real bond yields are unprecedented - about 7 per cent when measured against inflation over the last year. But that is not enough. The bond market needs happy facts to keep it going.

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By the first week of last month this contract, indicative

of the state of the bond market, had risen to more than 73.

Some observers considered that a substantial rally in bonds was likely. The reason was that the Fed, having begun on a course of monetary restraint in April, would hold to that course for some time, on its past form.

Certainly until there were strong indications that the US economy's vigorous expansion phase, stimulated by the Fed's own highly expansionary monetary policy, was drawing to a close.

Some analysts forecast a return of up to 25 to 30 per cent per annum on bonds bought in September or October and sold next summer.

Maxwell Newton

Allied London Properties growing in every way

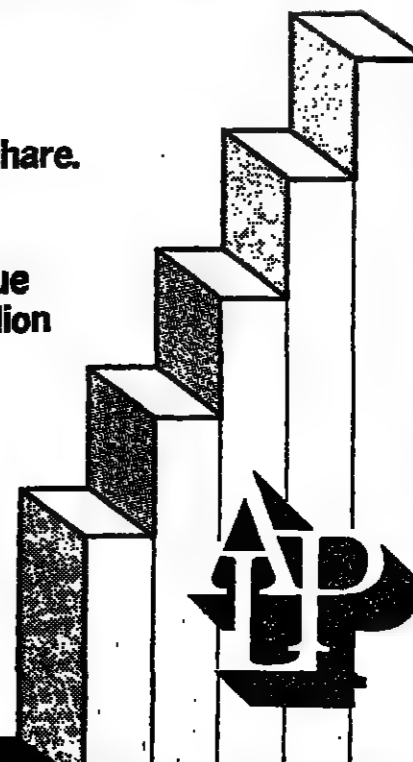
* £2.43 million profit.
Increase of 25%

* 2p dividend per ord. share.
Increase of 29%

* Property portfolio value
increase to £62.2 million

* 1 for 2 capitalisation
issue proposed

* 207p net asset value
per share.
Increase of 16.29%



Allied London Properties Plc
9 Hinde Street, London W1M 5RG.

[illegible]

23.00 to 29.00 against 26.7m the year before.

For the last full year C&W easily beat the best of City forecasts by 25m with a script issue thrown in as a bonus. And that included an \$2m write-off of its telephone assets in Hongkong, some of which were still in use.

Last July the company told a group of analysts that it likes to surprise the City when reporting higher profits. That simple statement led many to add \$10m to their basic calculation.

The analysts are stumped by the various factors affecting profitability. Currency causes

The week well be dominated by the Chancellor's autumn statement on Thursday when Mr Nigel Lawson will announce the outcome of the public spending review for the next year, and publish new Treasury forecasts for the British economy.

On Wednesday, the first of the new monthly estimates of the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) is published for October. Central Government transactions, previously published separately, will be included.

Figures for the first six months of the 1983-84 financial year suggested that the PSBR was likely to overshoot the Government's £3,200m target, by perhaps £1,000m or more.

The City will be looking for some improvement in public finances in October, especially in central Government spending which has been running well above plan.

Thursday sees publication of the output measure of third quarter gross domestic product, third quarter capital spending and stocks, and details of money supply growth in October, including bank lending.

Figures for the output of the production industries for September and provisional October retail sales are out today. Most analysts expect a modest increase in industrial production but are divided over the outlook for retail sales with some seeing a further improvement on September's record level and other a decline.

On Wednesday the Department of Employment publishes the average earnings index for September, and on Friday the Central Statistical Office releases the latest cyclical indicators for the British economy.

lem is the replacement of Mr Michael Weeks, the man responsible for choosing the supermarket sites.

The group is beginning to face far more competition from Tesco's Victor-Value stores. Kwik-Save has opened 40 new stores and the company claims to be satisfied with the result.

That programme of expansion is not expected to diminish in the current year, so the group looks set to threaten the bigger groups in the not too distant future.

Wayne Lintott

Wayne Lintott

TOTAL Compagnie Française des Pétroles

Consolidated financial position
at June 30, 1983

At its meeting of November 9, 1983, the Board examined the consolidated financial statements of the Total Group at June 30, 1983 (figures given in millions of francs):

	1st Half 1982	1st Half 1983
Sales	61,534	68,538
Cash Flow	1,546	2,821
Depreciation and Provisions	3,516	3,604
Net Income	-1,870	-783
—CFP Share	-1,359	-376
—Minority Interests	-511	-407
Inventory Incidence (estimated)	600	-500
Cash Flow excluding Inventory Incidence	1,046	3,321

The net loss recorded is in part a result of inadequate prices on the oil markets and in part a result of the negative inventory incidence consequent on the fall in crude oil prices that occurred during the first half.

Cash flow and the net result are determined by the FIFO method as in previous years. The inventory incidence calculated on the cost of replacing tonnage sold is negative and estimated at minus 500 million francs. Cash flow excluding inventory incidence thus calculated is then 3.3 billion francs.

Furthermore, considerable stock drawdowns of 2.2 million tons reduced the value of Group inventories from 25.9 billion francs to 20.5 billion francs. No profit was recorded on this drawing down, as would have been the case if a LIFO method had been applied from the outset. Application of the FIFO method has in previous years led to a revaluing of inventories and therefore generated book inventory profits which increased the Group's balance sheet net worth, without indicating the portion of net worth attributable to these. It is not necessary therefore to record a profit on stock drawdowns which would then have to be offset by recovery of a provision to an equal amount taken from reserves.

Net exchange losses recorded in the income statement amount to 221 million francs. This amount includes on the one hand the exchange transaction results of CFP-Parent Company and of the various subsidiaries which are positive, and on the other, a loss of 600 million francs resulting from translation into francs of the debts of the Group's various foreign subsidiaries which are expressed in the currency of account of these subsidiaries. Conversely, translation into francs of the assets of these foreign subsidiaries showed a monetary appreciation of 1400 million francs which is not recorded in income but increases by as much shareholders' equity on the Group's balance sheet.

The disposal in June of interests in Ato Chimie and Chloé Chimie to the Elf Aquitaine Group resulted in the removal of these interests from the consolidated financial statements and in a net loss of 134 million francs which is included in first half results.

Net investments amounted to 2.9 billion francs against 3.5 billion francs for first half 1982, and 8.2 billion for all of 1982. It should be observed that during first half 1983 the figure for net investments neighbours on that for cash flow.

Horizon slips in the holiday price war

The price war in package holidays still has some way to go. The question is: Which companies are most likely to suffer?

Among the top half dozen tour operators, in terms of Stock Exchange exposure, Horizon Travel and Intasun Leisure are most under pressure. Others ostensibly are cushioned because they are part of a bigger organization.

Thomson Holidays is part of the Thomson group although an increasingly important profit contributor. It is the same with Global, part of GUS: British Airways is behind operators like Enterprise and Sovereign, although privatization prospects conceivably add pressure to maintain profits; and Cosmos has its ambulatory links with Liechtenstein.

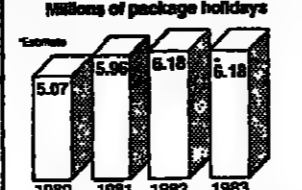
It is Thomson, with Mr John MacNeill in the driving seat, which has been most aggressive so far with traditionally upmarket holidays. This summer it has been generally competitive on price with Intasun, traditionally the main seller on lower prices. A reprint brochure with even lower prices is likely from Thomson next month with Intasun coming in with its unpublished 1984 main brochure even as late as the first few days in January.

Allowance needs to be made, therefore, for tactics in that particular poker game when assessing what combatants have to say, but Harry Goodman, Intasun's forceful chairman, said, somewhat uncharacteristically: "Thomson may beat us on price. But we would then be a close second. Horizon could face dropping substantially to compete."

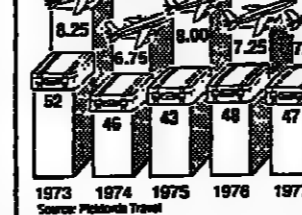
Horizon has been slow to match the competition of Thomson and Intasun and among the big operators has consequently suffered the most. Mr Bruce Tanner, Horizon's chairman, admits his margins are "a little lower" and that although turnover in the current financial year is slightly up on annual comparison, profits are down. Analysts are looking to around £11m pretax against more than £14m last time.

Mr Tanner says guardedly the figure will be in excess of £10m. He hopes for a dividend

HOW SUMMER TRAFFIC GREW



BRITONS' HOLIDAYS ABROAD



increase again - "but it depends a lot on 1984 trading."

A crucial factor with Horizon is the way it uses its airline, Orion. Some 85 per cent of its carryings are Horizon holiday-makers. There is an obvious problem when the holidays operation loses its way as it has this summer.

Horizon has at last taken steps to diversify its holiday product. Its average holiday price, because of the product mix involving more upmarket holidays, has been running at £270 (these are Horizon's figures). Now it has launched a new label, Broadway,

Horizon looks like a takeover target

Although Horizon is nearer to matching the price-cutters, and still like Thomson has an option to reprint its 1984 brochure, it is starting to look like a takeover target.

Intasun has for some time been trying to drive its image more upmarket by improving quality control but the argument for Intasun being interested eventually in Horizon is that it could more quickly give Intasun a bigger slice of the upper tiers of the market.

In the game of brochure bluff now going on Intasun has currently dealt the hand of a 6 per cent interim discount on its 1983 brochure offering. Mr

Goodman said: "If we took a 6 per cent drop in prices and there was also no growth for us then our profit margins would be hit, probably by 2 to 3 per cent. But we only need 5 to 6 per cent growth in the main Intasun product - less than we achieved this year - to hit 20 per cent growth for the group as a whole."

The 6 per cent off gambit by the end of October has sold 30,000 package holidays, only 5 per cent of Intasun's projected carryings. Mr Goodman said: "So we lose some bookings - so what? We will pick it all up in January."

The question mark over Intasun is whether it will cut its prices not by 6 per cent but by 10 to 12 per cent, as some in the trade expect. That might affect profits less than one might think. Intasun is still increasing the range of products, and is gearing up subsidiary operations like Lancaster Holidays and Club 18/30. Lower prices should raise volumes on the Intasun product.

Less than half the carryings on its airline, Air Europe, are accounted for in-house and Air Europe claims a utilization rate above that of Horizon and Thomson's Britannia airline.

It would be easy to nominate possible bidders for Horizon. Only last week Grand Metropolitan added to its travel interests by buying up Travelcine, big in short-break continental holidays. Bass has also been extending its travel interests.

Derek Harris

Markets await an unlikely change

Is the world back on dollar standard?

The behaviour of the dollar in the foreign exchange markets is confounding most observers. About this time in 1981, 1982 and again this year, the consensus forecast in the foreign exchange markets has been that there would be a substantial fall in the value of the dollar because of the deterioration in the US current account.

The Deutschmark rose from 2.70 early in September to almost 2.50 by mid-October but is now back to about 2.70. Since the dollar really took off in 1978-1979, it has risen over 50 per cent against the Deutschmark, 40 per cent against the Swiss franc, 30 per cent against the yen and the pound.

Yet, the US current account has deteriorated sharply since 1981. Then, the current account showed a surplus of \$5 billion with a deficit on the trade account of \$40 billion. Now it is estimated to show a deficit of approximately \$40 billion, with the trade balance \$70 billion in deficit.

Moreover, the almost universal expectation is that the trade balance will worsen further next year perhaps to a deficit of 100 billion and with an overall current account deficit of 60 billion.

The fact that the dollar has remained so strong suggests that

Expectations that the trade balance will worsen

other more fundamental forces are at work in the system.

During the second half of the last decade there was a strong movement on the part of central banks and private asset holders to diversify away from the dollar. There was a deterioration in the US current account accompanied by worsening inflation and a growing lack of faith in the perceived willingness of the then US Administration to tackle the problem.

International reserves were rising rapidly over that period with developing countries being able to borrow very large amounts of funds in the international accumulating reserves at a spectacular rate.

Dollar holdings of the central banks of industrial countries fell from 89 per cent of total reserves in 1977 to 79 per cent

World War until the late 1960s

It was a dollar standard within the context of basically fixed exchange rates which was overtaken by floating exchange rates.

During the period of floating the dollar became relatively less important as an international reserve asset. That process has now been reversed.

The system is increasingly back on a dollar standard. But unlike in the 1950s and 1960s it is within the context of a world of floating exchange rates.

The question is whether the United States can continue to finance its current account deficit with ease and whether the dollar can continue to remain strong.

Two forces are pulling in opposite directions. One group of observers argues that the US current account cannot get much worse before the other forces are swamped and so the dollar has to fall.

But if the Eurodollar market continues to show low or negative growth, if reserves in general grow at a modest rate, and if Opec nations continue to run balance of payments deficits, there is every reason to expect a further concentration of international reserves into dollars.

If the second argument is correct, it means that the US

The US current account may perform worse than expected

current account may deteriorate much further than most observers expect without triggering a fall in the dollar. It also suggests that US interest rates could fall without necessarily impairing the strength of the dollar.

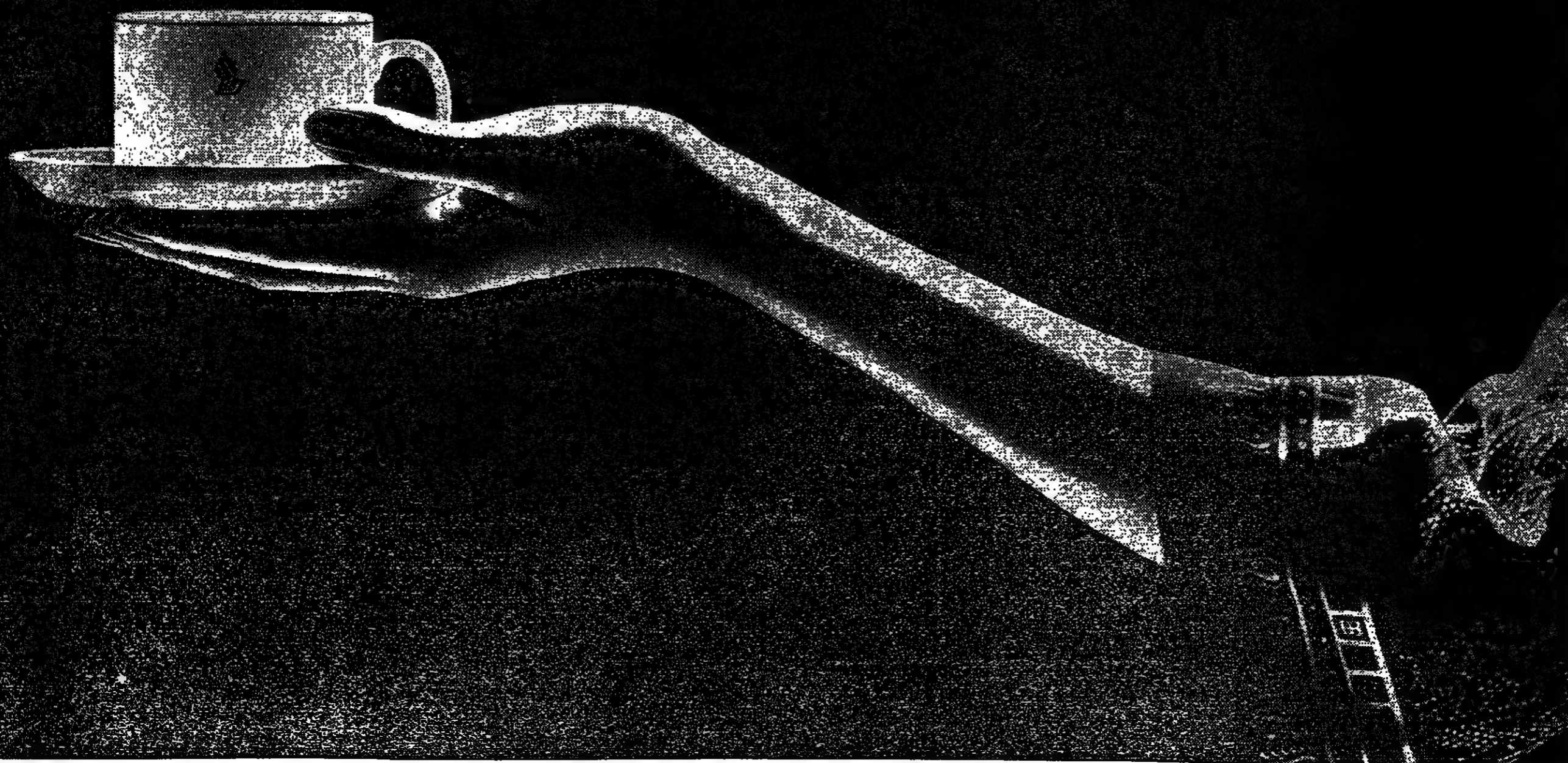
Such continued strength of the dollar could act as a longer-term damper on economic growth in Western European countries to lower interest rates because they fear of seeing their currencies fall even further.

At some stage, the process will certainly be reversed and then the fall in the dollar could be very dramatic. But not yet.

Geoffrey Bell

The author is a director of Schroder International and a member of the Group of Thirty.

A FEW HOURS GRACE BEFORE THE MADNESS STARTS ALL OVER AGAIN.



In today's business world you must put time aside to slow yourself down.

And one place you can do that is in the privacy of our Business Class cabin. Relaxing in an exclusively designed seat some airlines would be pleased to call First Class.

Here, as you stretch out in an area roomier than

you imagined, decisions are deliberated at your leisure.

It's your prerogative to change your mind over the choice of drink, or whether to have Lobster Newburg, Rib Eye Steak or Szechuan Fried Fish.

It doesn't matter that those extra documents made your luggage heavy. Our Business Class

allowance is thirty kilos.

And it was good to find that we reserved your favourite seat when your secretary booked the ticket. And that our Premium Accommodation Plan service has your hotel confirmed well ahead.

Knowing, too, that your luggage will be cleared before most others when you land helps take the

edge off the business pressures you expect to encounter at the other end. But from this height, as you leisurely consider a brandy offered by our gentle hostesses in sarong kebaya, any problems on the ground are starting to look a little insignificant, aren't they?

SINGAPORE AIRLINES BUSINESS CLASS

مكنا من الأصل

Law Report November 14 1983

Rescinding bankruptcy order

Commissioners of Inland Revenue v Falcomer and Others

Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice May and Lord Justice Dillon [Judgment delivered November 8]

Where in bankruptcy proceedings an order dismissing a bankruptcy petition had been made at the instance of the petitioning creditor, the court could subsequently rescind the order dismissing the petition and make receiving orders against the debtors even though such a course of action was opposed by the petitioning creditor.

The Court of Appeal so stated in dismissing an appeal by the petitioning creditor, the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, against an order of Mr Registrar Dewhurst made on February 11, 1982, on the application of the trustee in bankruptcy, Mr G. D. Falcomer.

Section 108 of the Bankruptcy Act 1914 provides: "(1) Every court having jurisdiction on bankruptcy under this Act may review, rescind or vary any order by it under its bankruptcy jurisdiction."

Mr John Mummery for the Inland Revenue, Mr Edward Bannister for the trustee in bankruptcy.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that the debtors carried on a plant contracting and construction business in Lincolnshire. They became indebted to the Inland Revenue who recovered judgment against them and the debtors failed to comply with the bankruptcy notices and the petition was presented in the High Court by the Revenue.

The petition was first heard before Mr Registrar Parton on May 12, 1980. On that date a cheque for £30,000 was handed to the Revenue. The petition was adjourned to July 8 when the registrar was told by the Revenue that the £30,000 being held in trust, a phrase which meant in trust pending the outcome of the petition.

The petition was then adjourned for several further periods and ultimately came before Mr Registrar Dewhurst on February 17, 1981. By that date no further payment had been made to the Revenue in respect of their debt but there had been other important developments. On November 8, 1980 the three debtors had committed a further act of bankruptcy in reliance on which a trade creditor who had recovered judgment against them presented a bankruptcy petition in the Southport County Court.

A receiving order against all three debtors was made on the county court petition on December 30, 1980 and all three debtors were adjudicated bankrupt on the county court petition on February 11, 1981. The first respondent, Mr Falcomer, was appointed trustee in bankruptcy of all three bankrupts in place of the Official Receiver.

Before February 17, 1981 the Official Receiver had been aware that the Revenue's petition was pending in the High Court and

conversely the Revenue was aware of the receiving order made on the county court petition.

On February 17, 1981 on the adjourned hearing of the Revenue's High Court petition, Mr Registrar Dewhurst at the request of the Revenue, dismissed that petition. There was nobody there to oppose that course. Subsequently, the trustee in bankruptcy learned about the £30,000 and the order of the Revenue to pay over the £30,000 but the Revenue refused.

The trustee was then advised that he could not effectively claim the £30,000 so long as the order of February 17 stood. Accordingly he applied to the High Court for the order of February 17 to be rescinded under section 108 of the Bankruptcy Act 1914, for receiving orders to be made against three debtors instead, and for the High Court proceedings to be transferred to the Southport County Court and consolidated with the bankruptcy proceedings there.

That application came before Mr Registrar Dewhurst on February 11, 1982 and he acceded to it. By his order, which was the order now appealed against, he rescinded his order of February 17, 1981, whereby he had dismissed the Revenue's petition and he made receiving orders against all three debtors. He subsequently ordered transfer to the county court.

At first sight it seemed startling that the registrar should have jurisdiction to rescind his order dismissing the petition nearly a year later. The wording of section 108(1) was however unambiguous and the general comment in *Williams on Bankruptcy* 19th edition at p457 that "the jurisdiction to rehear and rescind or vary orders made in the exercise of bankruptcy jurisdiction is, in a proper case, almost without limit" appeared to be justified.

The nub of the Revenue's appeal was that it was wrong for the registrar to have rescinded his order and made receiving orders for the avowed purpose of bringing the £30,000 paid to the Revenue in May 1980 within the net of the county court bankruptcy which only related back to the date of the bankruptcy.

Section 5(7) of the 1914 Act provided that a creditor's petition should not, after presentation, be withdrawn without the leave of the court. In *Re Bello* ([1900] 2 QB 316, 321) it was stated that such leave to withdraw a petition should be given only after an exercise of judgment as to whether the case was proper for withdrawal. His Lordship agreed.

But, in his Lordship's judgment, because the court had to deal with the petition in one of the ways indicated in section 5, it followed that if the court in the proper exercise of its judgment refused leave to withdraw a petition, the court could go on its own motion to make a receiving order, if satisfied

on the matters set out in section 5(2).

It would be strange indeed if the court, having on the proper exercise of its judgment refused leave to withdraw a petition, were, without cooperation from the petitioning creditor who wanted the petition withdrawn, unable to do anything with the petition but leave it lying indefinitely on the file.

The question was then whether the existence of the county court petition and of the receiving orders and adjudications on that petition provided a valid ground for the court to refuse leave to withdraw the Revenue's petition. It was common ground that no other creditors who happened to come forward on February 17, 1981 could have been submitted for the Revenue as petitioning creditor on that date.

Mr Mummery therefore submitted that what could not be done directly by substituting another creditor as a petitioner should not, or could not, properly, be done indirectly by making a receiving order at the instance of the trustee in bankruptcy in the county court bankruptcy who merely represented the general body of creditors. The Revenue should not be deprived of the fruits of its diligence.

His Lordship saw great force in that submission if the £30,000 had been paid to the Revenue outright and unconditionally in May 1981, almost six months before the act of bankruptcy to which the county court bankruptcy related. But he thought it might then be wrong for the Revenue to be deprived of its established right to money paid to it well before the county court bankruptcy.

Those were not, however, the facts before the court. The Revenue had no absolute title to the £30,000 without the order of February 17, 1981. The money was held in trust and the order giving leave to withdraw the petition was needed to perfect the Revenue's title.

Why should the court, after the debtors had been adjudicated bankrupt on the county court petition, prefer to perfect the Revenue's title, instead of leaving so much of the £30,000 as had been provided by the debtors, available for the general body of their creditors in the course of their bankruptcy?

So long as the £30,000 was held in trust the debtors had a contingent interest in it. That interest vested in their trustee under the county court bankruptcy and there was no reason why the trustees should be deprived of it.

In his Lordship's judgment, the registrar had erred on February 17, 1981 when he gave the Revenue leave to withdraw their petition and he corrected his error by making the proper order for withdrawal. That order was correct and his Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE MAY and the Master of the Rolls agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Inland Revenue, Swanton, Walsh & Son for the Revenue; Solicitors, Inland Revenue, Swanton, Walsh & Son for the Revenue; Solicitors, Inland Revenue, Swanton, Walsh & Son for the Revenue.

effect a lump sum commutation of the price paid.

Thus, applying Mr Justice Dixon's three criteria, the indicia would seem to point strongly to the payment being of a capital rather than a revenue nature.

Mr Mathew, however, relied on the two factors which had appealed to the special commissioners, namely, the analogy of the cases to which they referred and the absence, as they found, of any asset of an enduring nature.

In the court's view, the cases did not provide any compulsion or convincing analogy which pointed to the conclusion that the expenditure in the instant case fell properly to be treated as of a revenue nature. Indeed it appeared more nearly analogous to *Tucker v Granada Motorway Services Ltd* ([1971] 1 WLR 683) where a payment in commutation of a variable rent in the lease of the taxpayer's premises was held to be a capital payment.

So, in the instant case, if both the purpose and the effect of the transaction were analysed, what emerged from the 1975 agreement was a clearly identifiable and enduring advantage - no doubt an advantage which enabled the company to trade better and thus increase its profits, but one of a capital nature in the sense that it enabled the company to utilize its capital assets in a way in which it could not have utilized them before and to continue to enjoy the benefit of instalment repayment of the loan without the disadvantages imposed on it by the 1975 agreement.

Prior to the agreement the company had been disabled from raising further capital on the security of any of its assets. After the agreement, its assets were available to it as a capital asset.

There were thus two enduring advantages achieved by the agreement: the alteration in the terms affecting the loan capital and the release of the charges on all assets other than the land. The latter was a valuable benefit in itself and the transaction was correct and the appeal failed.

Solicitors: Pealey Milward & Bayley, Dursley, Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Payment from capital

Whitehead (Inspector of Taxes) v Tubbs (Elastic) Ltd

Before Lord Justice Dunn, Lord Justice Oliver and Lord Justice Fox [Judgment delivered November 8]

A £20,000 payment made by a company to secure its release from restrictive terms attached to an £80,000 loan was a capital payment and not deductible in computing the company's trading profits or losses for corporation tax purposes.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the company, Tubbs (Elastic) Ltd, from an order of Mr Justice Vinelott ([1982] 1 All ER 1000) allowing the Crown's appeal against a determination by the special commissioners that the company was entitled to loss relief in respect of the payment under section 177 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970.

In October 1975 the company, a manufacturer of narrow woven fabrics at Sherston, Wiltshire, had borrowed £80,000 from the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation Ltd (ICFC) to purchase a new mill at Denby in Shropshire, pursuant to an agreement whereby, *inter alia*:

1 The loan was repayable by instalments over nine years and secured by a debenture creating a first and fixed charge over all the company's freehold property, goodwill and uncalculated capital and a floating charge over the company's remaining assets.

2 So long as the loan was outstanding the company was not, without ICFC's consent, to enter into any hire-purchase agreements in excess of £10,000, acquire any investment, make any loan or dispose of assets otherwise than in the ordinary course of business.

3 No money was to be borrowed by the company without ICFC's consent save for bank loans up to £25,000.

4 ICFC was to be kept informed of the company's business progress.

5 A ceiling of £25,000 was imposed on the aggregate amount of directors' emoluments and pensions.

To procure its release from those restrictions in June 1978 the company paid £20,000 to ICFC and

the agreement and debenture were cancelled and replaced by a simple mortgage on the Sherston premises.

Mr Robert Mathew for the company, Mr Michael Hart for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE OLIVER, giving the judgment of the court, said that it was accepted that, once the facts were ascertained, the question whether a particular expenditure was of a revenue or capital nature was a question of fact, and one to which could not be obtained by the application of one single all-embracing test.

If one started with the first of the matters referred to by Mr Justice Vinelott in *Sun Newspapers Ltd v Federal Commissioner of Taxation* ([1938] 61 CLR 337, 363) namely the character of the advantage sought, the general advantage was simply the release from the restrictive terms of the loan, and that could not be said to be an answer to the problem for that, or, ought to be, the advantage sought from all expenditure of the company's money was the release from the restrictive terms of the loan.

The special commissioners found that the sun had been paid "in order to secure release from certain terms of the 1975 agreement which were inhibiting day-to-day management of its business and were liable to jeopardise its continued profitable expansion."

Mr Hart, however, submitted that the release from the restrictions were inhibiting day-to-day management could not be determinative of the question whether the price for their release was to be treated as being of a revenue or a capital nature.

The advantage sought to be achieved was one which was permanent in the sense that the company was relieved of the balance of the loan period of the disadvantage arising from the restrictions and relieved of restrictions attributable to a non-recurring transaction. One could not separate the payment made from the origins of the restrictions in respect of which it was made.

In effect the restrictions were the price paid for the loan and the loan was clearly a transaction of a capital nature. One way of looking at the matter, therefore, as Mr Hart would submit, was that the payment was in

effect a lump sum commutation of the price paid.

Thus, applying Mr Justice Dixon's three criteria, the indicia would seem to point strongly to the payment being of a capital rather than a revenue nature.

Mr Mathew, however, relied on the two factors which had appealed to the special commissioners, namely, the analogy of the cases to which they referred and the absence, as they found, of any asset of an enduring nature.

In the court's view, the cases did not provide any compulsion or convincing analogy which pointed to the conclusion that the expenditure in the instant case fell properly to be treated as of a revenue nature. Indeed it appeared more nearly analogous to *Tucker v Granada Motorway Services Ltd* ([1971] 1 WLR 683) where a payment in commutation of a variable rent in the lease of the taxpayer's premises was held to be a capital payment.

So, in the instant case, if both the purpose and the effect of the transaction were analysed, what emerged from the 1975 agreement was a clearly identifiable and enduring advantage - no doubt an advantage which enabled the company to trade better and thus increase its profits, but one of a capital nature in the sense that it enabled the company to utilize its capital assets in a way in which it could not have utilized them before and to continue to enjoy the benefit of instalment repayment of the loan without the disadvantages imposed on it by the 1975 agreement.

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Excellent opportunity for a highly motivated and experienced individual to take on the role of a Technician. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day administrative duties of the company. The role is a challenging one and requires a high level of motivation and a proven track record in secretarial work. The successful candidate will be offered a competitive salary and benefits package. If you are interested in this role, please send your CV to: [Address], [City], [Postcode].

TECHNICAL

Excellent opportunity for a highly motivated and experienced individual to take on the role of a Technician. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day administrative duties of the company. The role is a challenging one and requires a high level of motivation and a proven track record in secretarial work. The successful candidate will be offered a competitive salary and benefits package. If you are interested in this role, please send your CV to: [Address], [City], [Postcode].

HORIZONS

The Times guide to career choice

Graduate recruitment directories

Undergraduates in their final year who are currently considering their career options in the coming season will probably have already encountered one or more of the major graduate recruitment directories which are distributed, free of charge, on demand, from university and polytechnic careers services. What they may not be aware of is that their choice of directory is rapidly becoming the centre of a controversial debate between employers, the careers service and the principal publishers concerned. A debate which has led to many services being increasingly selective about the directories they choose to distribute in bulk.

To understand the issues involved, it is necessary to take a close look at each of the directories and the differences in approach and content which exist between them. There are four main contenders: *GO* (published by the New Opportunity Press) and *DOG* (published by VNU Business Publications) - both of these are produced by commercial publishers and contain details of employers who are specifically intending to recruit graduates in the coming season. The employers pay for their entries in much the same way as they pay for recruitment advertising. Subject to set standards of style and accuracy, they have absolute control over the information the entries contain and the way in which it is written. *GET* (published by Hobson/CRAIC) - Hobson's Press is the commercial publisher linked to the Careers Research and Advisory Centre, a registered educational charity financed by subscriptions and donations, licensing income and project sponsorship. In addition to separate employer entries similar to those which appear in *GO* and *DOG*, *GET* also contains a comprehensive directory of employers in the appendix. The directory is compiled by CRAIC itself using a data-based system of reference paid for by the centre's subscription and not directly by the employers which appear in the text.

ROGET is published on behalf of the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS) by the Central Services Unit, a non-profit making body from all universities and polytechnics in the British Isles. The basic entries are compiled by the unit using a data-base system similar to the one employed by CRAIC and they are offered to employers on a free basis. Crucial to the controversy, however, is the fact that employers are charged for any additional space they choose to take out in the entry.

With the development of *ROGET*, a directory produced on behalf of the careers services themselves, many of them have independently begun to reduce or restrict the numbers of the other directories they choose to distribute. Given that the services are the major, and in some cases, the only way of distributing the material directly to the students on the campus, this has caused a predictable storm of protest from the publishers concerned.

The reasons given by individual services have tended to be very glibly many say that because the entries in the commercial directories are compiled months before publication, the estimates of vacancy requirements which appear are out of date by the time the students read them. They emphasize that, by comparison, *ROGET* is not a list of vacancies but a carefully compiled directory giving objective and impartial information about the employers covered.

This was reiterated by AGCAS's new chairman, Robert Porter. He said: "*ROGET* was conceived in 1971 by a group of careers advisers who felt the need for a concise and comprehensive reference source on graduate employers, and in particular one that would make available to students information on the many employers who did not issue recruitment literature to all careers services or advertise in the careers directories.

"*ROGET* has been developed as a compendium with a role different to that of the main commercial directories and is not designed to give vacancy information. Vacancies - especially in these uncertain times - can rarely be predicted 15 months before a graduate is available for employment.

Other services say that, with four directories now available for students, it is no longer reasonable for them to be expected to handle, store and distribute all of them in the same quantity as in the past. A few concede, however, that this argument is often being used as a convenient way to favour *ROGET* above the other directories.

"Everybody, particularly the commercial publishers, are well aware of the jungle-like approach of the commercial world and it must be recognised that employers only have a limited amount of funds to invest in directory entries," commented Brian Stephens, joint director of the University of London Careers Advisory Service. "We, the careers service, are exploiting our semi-monopolistic access to students in order to ensure that *ROGET* will become a viable product - with the caveat that members of AGCAS feel that it is a better source of information than the others. To suggest otherwise would be totally naive."

The commercial publishers concede many of the points put forward by the careers services. They agree that *ROGET* serves a different purpose to their own publication, but argue that it should therefore complement rather than replace them. All of them were prepared to arrange some form of staggered distribution to ease services' logistical problems and two out of the three would consider the payment of reasonable handling charges to compensate for the problems of distributing their directories in bulk.

But the continued restriction placed on the distribution of their publications in favour of *ROGET*, has fuelled the suspicion view that "careers advisers' ability to judge the relative benefits of the various directories objectively is being stretched to the limit by the financial gain the service as a whole will make if *ROGET* is distributed in larger numbers.

"In the words of Mark Lane, *DOG*'s publisher: "Careers advisers are still living in the Victorian age. They feel that if you are a professional, somehow this is bad with a capital 'B'. They want to maintain their image of themselves as professionals and stick to the concept that 'nanny knows best'. But at the same time, for all their protestations to the contrary, they are also very interested in the money *ROGET* can earn the service."

Robert Porter dismisses these allegations. He says: "Whether a university or polytechnic Careers Service distributes any directories is entirely a matter for the individual service. AGCAS has consistently made it clear that it has no intention of creating monopoly; indeed careers advisers value the commercial directories because they are different, and make them available to students.

"The question has been raised as to whether the desire to ensure a sound financial basis for *ROGET* has led some careers advisers to be more restrictive over the distribution of the commercial directories. I do not personally see these issues as directly linked - what many careers advisers believe is that a rapidly changing graduate job market demands a different approach to employer and vacancy information."

There is no doubt that a substantial majority of careers services would endorse Mr Porter's comments. But it is clear that a small but influential minority do not.

In the absence of any independent findings on the way in which students use the various directories, it is difficult to draw any absolute conclusion about careers advisers' misgivings concerning the commercial publications. But, with employers increasingly unwilling to place entries in all four directories and the commercial publishers already attempting to bypass the careers services by direct distribution to the academic departments, the issue is unlikely to quietly disappear.

Michel Syrett

Educational

Scottish Marine Biological Association

Deputy Director

Applications are invited for the post of Deputy Director of the Association's Dunstaffnage Marine Research Laboratory, Oban, Scotland.

The Dunstaffnage Laboratory undertakes fundamental, multi-disciplinary research into the processes controlling marine ecosystems, particularly in Scottish coastal waters, but also in the deeper seas off the adjacent continental shelf. Applied research is also carried out on the impact of industrial development on the marine environment and into fish farming. There are close links between the Laboratory and several Scottish Universities and some post-graduate teaching is undertaken in conjunction with Stirling University. The Laboratory is mainly funded by a grant-in-aid from the Natural Environment Research Council and by research contracts commissioned by Government Departments and Industry. There is a total of about 96 staff, of whom 55 are in the Science Group. The total budget is about £1.6m, of which about £0.9m is from commissioned research.

The successful candidate will be particularly involved in the long-term planning, direction and management of the Laboratory's research programmes, working closely with the Assistant Director responsible for the commissioned research programmes. Candidates will be expected to have established reputations in marine science, preferably with experience of managing and administering scientific research.

The post is graded as Senior Principal Scientific Officer, with a salary scale of £15,605 - £19,317. S.M.B.A staff are members of the NERC Superannuation Scheme.

Application forms and further details of the post and the work of the Laboratory are available from the Director, Dunstaffnage Marine Research Laboratory, PO Box 3, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4AD, Scotland. Telephone: 0631 62244. Completed application forms should be returned to him by 16th December 1983 and should include a curriculum vitae with a full publications list.

THE BRITISH ACADEMY

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Applications from graduates under the age of 45 are invited for the post of Deputy Secretary. Candidates should have a lively interest in research in a wide range of the humanities and/or social sciences, a specialist knowledge of a broad area of scholarship and proven ability and relevant experience in administration. Appointment will be to Grade III of the national salary structure for University Administrative Staff, currently £13,515 to £16,925 plus London Allowance of £1,186pa. Duties to commence as soon as possible.

Further particulars are available from The Secretary, The British Academy, 20-21 Cornwell Terrace, London NW1 4QP. Tel: 01 487 5966. Closing date for applications 10th December, 1983.

University of Cambridge

Treasurer of the University

The Vice-Chancellor invites applications for the office of Treasurer of the University, which is now vacant. The present stipend of the office is £22,684 a year.

Persons interested in applying for the office are asked in the first instance to seek particulars by writing to the Vice-Chancellor, The Master's Lodge, Downing College, Cambridge, CB2 1DQ. The closing date for applications will be 14 December 1983.

Portrait Sculptor

Madame Tussaud's invite applications from PROFESSIONAL PORTRAIT SCULPTORS in the London area to work in the Studio of Madame Tussaud's on a commission basis. Applicants should have reached a high standard in figurative and portrait work. Apply in writing enclosing a small selection of slides or photographs to: Ian Hanson, Head of Studios, Madame Tussaud's Ltd, Marylebone Road, London NW1 5LR.

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Applications are invited for the post of Administrative Officer at the Inns of Court School of Law. Candidates should have a good degree. Preference may be given to a candidate with experience in academic administration. Salary within the scale £8,376-£13,366 (inclusive of London Allowance) plus superannuation (U.S.S.). There are opportunities for further advancement. Application forms and further particulars from the Sub-Dean, Council of Legal Education, 105 St. John's Lane, London WC1R 9SD. Closing date for applications 28th November 1983.

University of Essex

CHAIRMAN OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Applications are invited for a Chair in Computer Science in the field of computer architecture for appointment on 1 October 1984. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day administrative duties of the department. The role is a challenging one and requires a high level of motivation and a proven track record in secretarial work. The successful candidate will be offered a competitive salary and benefits package. If you are interested in this role, please send your CV to: [Address], [City], [Postcode].

University of Liverpool

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (Operations and Maintenance) ENGINEERING

Applications are invited for a highly motivated and experienced individual to take on the role of an Assistant Director (Operations and Maintenance) Engineering. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day administrative duties of the department. The role is a challenging one and requires a high level of motivation and a proven track record in secretarial work. The successful candidate will be offered a competitive salary and benefits package. If you are interested in this role, please send your CV to: [Address], [City], [Postcode].

University of Manchester

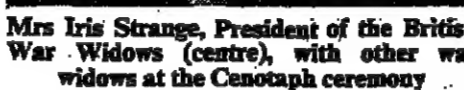
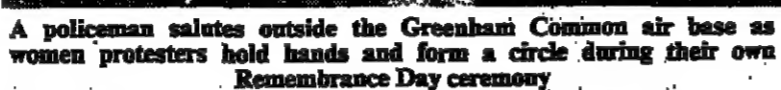
DIRECTOR OF ESTATES AND SERVICES

Applications are invited for a new post of Director of Estates and Services. The Director will be one of three senior administrative officers advising the Vice-Chancellor. The University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL. In whom applications should be sent by December 1983. Salary scale £15,605-£19,317 plus London Allowance. Details and application forms from the Establishment Officer, 305 Regent Street, London W1R 8AL. Closing date, 2nd December 1983.

Which School? Free advice from Times & Telegraph, 75 City Road, London, W1P 0JZ. Tel: 01-772 1234. ARAC, Ex-University lecturer, 105 St. John's Lane, London WC1R 9SD. Tel: 01-487 5966.

Letter from Leipzig

Karen Silkwood was an American nuclear analyst who was mysteriously killed in a road accident when on her way to give a journalist documentary evidence of safety violations at the power station where she worked. All her papers had disappeared from her car when her body was found.



Michael Binyon

The archbishop's sermon was translated paragraph by paragraph by Archbishop Johannes

Dr Runcie also called for a religious war against "hygienic words" which fed complacency about the dangers facing the world and an end to propaganda and the "sterile abuse between East and West", which poisons language and turns other human beings into sub-human monsters".

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